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Maine Law

WINTER/SPRING 2021 | ISSUE 96

Magazine

Cover Story

The Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic Celebrates 50 Years of Advancing Access to Justice

Inside

Responding to Racial Injustice:
It's Time for Action

Maine Law's Pandemic Pivot

OPENING ARGUMENTS: **Aria Eee '94**

Executive Director, Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar

What is your pre-Maine Law background?

I'm a first-generation college graduate. I graduated from the University of Alabama, and then I took a year off to work before moving to Maine sight unseen. I drove a moving truck with my Mustang, cat, and wolf-hybrid in tow.

Aria Eee is the executive director of the Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar. She has devoted nearly 25 years of her legal career to public service in the state of Maine, and she is the 2020 recipient of the Law School's L. Kinvin Wroth Distinguished Alumna/us Award.

Why did you choose Maine Law?

I was bartending in Alabama, and a friend showed me a calendar full of photos of Maine. She said, "Look how beautiful it is!" That was my inspiration for moving halfway across the country; and when I decided to go to law school, I chose Maine Law because I loved living here.

I almost dropped out after the first year – I felt out of place and in over my head. Deirdre Smith, my classmate and friend, talked me out of it and encouraged me to try for a spot in the Clinic. That's where everything finally came together and started to make sense. It's where I learned to be in court, to actually practice law – and I loved it. At last I was able to say, "Now I know why I went to law school!"

What is involved in your current work?

As of mid-June 2020, the Court and Board made me executive director of the Board of Overseers of the Bar. I'm responsible for organizing the educational initiatives, daily office management, and executive functions for the Board.

Was there a particular Maine Law faculty member who influenced you?

David Gregory was just amazing. I felt a little lost and confused early on, but he was a wonderful advisor. His class may have been the only one I truly understood that first year!

What surprised you most about life after law school?

My first job out of law school was as a NAPIL fellow (now known as Equal Justice Works), providing Indian legal services to Passamaquoddy Tribal members in Washington County. I was surprised and honored to receive the fellowship and really loved serving as a PTLA attorney!

I'm continually surprised that I'm able to maintain friendships and relationships I've had since law school. Maine has a small legal community that's incredibly accessible and supportive. I moved around a lot as a kid, so to be able to feel solidly connected to friends and colleagues all these years is great. Making and keeping strong relationships can really sustain your practice and help keep up your stamina.

Why should students consider Maine Law?

For the same reasons I did – although maybe not just because of the lighthouses! Maine Law's small size offers an amazing opportunity for individualized programs. Particularly in the Clinic and in seminars, the faculty members take a genuine interest in you. As a student you can feel that, and it buoys you to do a good job. I never ever felt like a number at Maine Law. As one of just a few students of color in my class, I also felt it was a truly supportive environment.

In what ways has the COVID-19 crisis affected your work?

Nearly everyone is struggling right now, including recent graduates who are uncertain about their futures. I've focused energy on ensuring that the Board of Overseers is a ready resource for both bar members and Maine legal consumers.

This has also proven to be an important time for our Bar to address systemic racism, inequitable treatment, and the need for more inclusive efforts. It's a valuable opportunity to reflect on how to contribute more to our legal and local communities. To do so, I think we must work hard to create safe spaces within which to discuss these challenging topics. Creating openings for meaningful discussion seems to me to be the most productive vehicle to affect lasting changes.



“This has also proven to be an important time for our Bar to address systemic racism, inequitable treatment, and the need for more inclusive efforts. It’s a valuable opportunity to reflect on how to contribute more to our legal and local communities.”

Aria Eee '94

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upcoming events, photos, and information for
alumni, friends, and current and prospective
students. We encourage you to "like" the page
and join in the conversation.

You can also stay up to date by visiting
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(@umainelaw); and Instagram (@umainelaw).



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COVER PHOTO: The Clinic Faculty and Students

From left: Associate Dean Deirdre Smith, Shianne Bowlin, Ben Everett, Sanchita Mukherjee,
Professor Christopher Northrop, Kelsey Lee, Professor Courtney Beer, Professor Tina Schneider,
Jon Ruterbories, and Professor Anna Welch

Nadra Edgerley photo

“A true sense of justice begins with caring about other people, and the Maine Law community personifies that caring.”

Dean Leigh I. Saufley



What a year. 2020 was anticipated to be a year of great celebrations. This was the year of Maine's Bicentennial, celebrating 200 years since the State of Maine was accepted into the Union. It was the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote. It was also Maine's 50th anniversary of the appointment of the first Franco-American Chief Justice to Maine's highest court – Justice Armand Dufresne was appointed to the Court on September 3, 1970.

Celebrations were planned, speeches were contemplated, gatherings were anticipated. Then the pandemic spread across the globe, and everything changed. Bicentennial and suffrage celebrations were canceled or held virtually. At Maine Law, spring classes went entirely online for the last month of the semester. The graduating class of 2020 lost the opportunity for their Barristers' Ball and the traditional Graduation Ceremony.

Then, on May 25th, as we remained isolated and distanced from each other, we watched our screens in horror as George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man in Minneapolis, Minnesota, died beneath the knee of a police officer who looked into the panicked crowd without apparent care or concern for the human being dying beneath him.

Nothing has been the same. The students, faculty, and staff at Maine Law stepped up in force. With absolute clarity, they demanded and proposed changes. Attention to racial injustice found in all areas of law prompted the professors at Maine Law to create a new survey course for the fall of 2020 to address injustice across the spectrum of American Law. Students and faculty led online forums to address the challenges ahead of us. A new Maine Law Task Force was created to address Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Much more is planned, and much more action is needed.

In response to the pandemic, Maine Law moved all courses online in just a few weeks last March, which would ordinarily have taken a year of planning. Led by Interim Dean Bam, the technology specialists, the staff, and the professors all worked together to allow classes to continue while keeping everyone

safe from the virus that was just beginning to be understood. Over the ensuing summer, classes were redesigned to allow students and professors to choose either personal presence in a safe and distanced classroom or fully online learning.

Through the inspiring work of its faculty, under the leadership of the Dean for Experiential Education Deirdre Smith, Maine Law's Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic did not miss a beat in representing its clients, even as the courts moved to remote or COVID-19-compliant proceedings, and client contact shifted to phone, video, or outdoor meetings. Clinic student attorneys learned how to represent clients in court proceedings that are more complex than they have ever been, ensuring that those who needed access to justice most were not deprived of that access because of the pandemic and their own resource limitations.

As we adjust to the changes brought about by the pandemic and maintain our focus on anti-racist action, the need for excellent, caring, and ethical lawyering has never been greater. The graduating class of 2020 demonstrated their commitment when 90% of those who took the Bar Exam this fall – in the midst of the pandemic – passed the Bar. Maine Law's 1L class has entered law school at a strange time in American history, but they, along with the 2L and 3L classes and all of the Law School staff and faculty are determined to ensure that Maine Law remains a place where justice matters, and where the next generation of advocates emerges prepared to tackle all of the challenges of a changing world.

Finally, from a very personal perspective, arriving at Maine Law in April of 2020 allowed me to see what community really means. Through all of the challenges, the students, faculty, and staff have been consistently and warmly welcoming to me. I am so fortunate to be a part of this community, where people take care of each other. Everyone has stayed carefully masked and complied with safe distancing, and Maine Law has had 100% compliance with its COVID-19 testing protocols. That should come as no surprise; a true sense of justice begins with caring about other people, and the Maine Law community personifies that caring.

Dean Leigh I. Saufley '80

Maine Law Welcomes New Professors

Maine Law welcomed the following new professors in the fall of 2020:



Jessica Feinberg

Jessica Feinberg joined the Law School as a professor of law. Previously, she was a professor at Mercer Law School, where she taught introductory and advanced family law courses, elder law, and contracts. She earned her J.D. degree from Washington University School of Law.

Duane Rudolph joined the Law School as an associate professor. Previously, he was a visiting assistant professor of law at Peking University School of Transnational Law in Shenzhen, China. He earned his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School, and both his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University.



Duane Rudolph



Gregory Bordelon

Gregory Bordelon joined the Law School as the director of academic success and an associate professor. He worked previously at the University of Baltimore School of Law, where he was a professor of practice and the director of bar success. He earned his J.D. degree from the Louisiana State University, Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

Scott Bloomberg joined the Law School as an associate professor. Previously, he was an attorney at Foley Hoag in Boston, where he maintained a diverse practice focusing on privacy law and cannabis law. He earned his J.D. degree from the University of Michigan Law School.



Scott Bloomberg

FROM THE CHANCELLOR

When I travel around the University of Maine System and meet with our students, the conversation at times turns to careers. When it does, I often share the observation that being Chancellor of the University of Maine System is my fifth career, following eight years as Governor of Connecticut, fourteen years as Mayor of my hometown of Stamford, Connecticut, and, before that, stints as an attorney in private practice, and, to start my career, a criminal prosecutor in New York City. And if I were to count my adjunct and visiting professor roles at the University of Connecticut and Boston College Law School, I'd be in my sixth career.

Only working as a prosecutor and then lawyer in private practice actually required the law degree I earned from Boston College. But there's no doubt that the critical thinking and analytical skills that all who pursue the J.D. degree garner along the way have been at the heart of every success I've had.

It's a point that still resonates with Maine Law students. When I visited former Maine Law Professor Sarah Schindler's Property Law class on October 8, 2020 – with masked and socially-distanced students in class with me at the Law School and several others joining via Zoom – amid questions that understandably focused on the University of Maine System's pandemic operations and plans, I fielded others that demonstrate that our Maine Law students appreciate the power of a law degree to open the door to rewarding careers not just in law, but in business and government too.

That's the premise underlying Maine Law's vital participation in the University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center (often called the Maine Center), a strategic collaborative partnering



of Maine Law with the University of Southern Maine's Muskie School of Public Service and the University of Maine's Graduate School of Business. UMaine's Graduate School of Business is itself a collaboration of the latter two universities' graduate business faculty to offer the world-class Maine M.B.A. Students in any of these programs, as well as mid-career professionals seeking a step up, have access to innovative and interdisciplinary certificates and degrees in law, business, and public policy, as well as scholarships and experiential learning opportunities that connect them to Maine's most forward-looking

professionals and companies.

And now Maine Law stands to benefit again. As part of a transformative \$240 million investment in UMS that the Harold Alfond Foundation announced in early October, when the Maine Center and UMS meet an outstanding \$7.5 million fundraising match goal, Maine Law and the Maine Center stand to receive up to \$55 million over the next decade. Along with an additional \$50 million in further matching funds that UMS will secure, the \$55 million Alfond investment will be used to expand their innovative interdisciplinary curriculums, fund new scholarships and experiential learning opportunities tied to Maine's 21st century economy, and, in perhaps five years, build a new home that will house the Maine Center's cutting-edge programs and services under one roof.

It's an exciting time to be at Maine Law, and I look forward to the new heights to which today's students, faculty, and staff will take the Law School under Dean Saufley's leadership.

Dannel P. Malloy, Chancellor, University of Maine System

Q & A with Dean Leigh I. Saufley

Why did you make this change from Chief Justice to Dean?

Being Chief Justice was the greatest honor of my professional life. It was a job that I loved. Working with lawyers, judges, court staff, and other advocates who truly care about people and are committed to the profound concepts that make this country great – the rule of law, access to justice, fairness in substance and process – made the job immensely rewarding. I therefore surprised even myself when, in the winter of 2020, I found that I was interested in tackling the challenges at the institution that had provided me with the skills and opportunities for such a wonderful career.

In the end, two things led me to consider a change. I was intrigued first by the opportunity to work with the students, the soon-to-be lawyers of the world with a fresh view of the delivery of justice. And second, Chancellor Dannel Malloy and

the Board of Trustees demonstrated such a deep respect and commitment to the success of Maine Law that I took the leap and threw my proverbial hat into the ring.

What have you found that surprised you?

I was aware of the wonderful sense of community at the Law School, its dedication to public service and access to justice, along with the recent focus on improving the pathways to a legal career through the PLUS Program and the Rural Lawyer Project. I have been delighted to learn, however, that there is so much more going on at Maine Law that supports today's law students as they prepare for a changing world!

In addition to a rigorous, fundamental legal education, students at Maine Law have the opportunity to obtain a certificate in the rapidly expanding subject of Information Privacy Law; to concentrate

on the "Blue Economy" through the Center for Oceans and Coastal Law; and to explore the evolving law of the Arctic as the region warms. Collaborations made available through the Maine Center have helped Maine Law students focus on business, obtain a J.D./M.B.A., and access unique opportunities for student summer work. For example, the Maine Center was instrumental in coordinating the summer of 2020 work of Maine Law students on "COVID-19 Law," which helped businesses, government, and employers navigate some of the uncharted territories of leading during a lengthy public health crisis.

Despite the limitations of the building and the constraints on the current budget, the staff and faculty at Maine Law have demonstrated creativity in preparing students for innovations in the practice of law that have moved the Law School forward with exciting options.

Clinic Collaboration Closes Gap in Access to Justice for Young Immigrants

Student attorneys at the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic collaborated on legislation that fundamentally changed the ability of at-risk noncitizen youth in Maine to obtain lawful permanent U.S. residence. Emily Arvizu '20 and Anne Sedlack '20, under the supervision of Clinical Professors Anna Welch and Christopher Northrop, coordinated a task force that included the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP); ILAP's founder, Beth Stickney; Toby and Lucky Hollander; and Elyse Segovias '10. Sedlack describes the project as an "amazing collaboration between the Juvenile Justice Clinic and the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic."

They sought to close a gap in state law that left abandoned, abused, or neglected noncitizen youth between the ages of 18 and 21 without a pathway toward obtaining a green card. While federal immigration law considers this group to be children, they are adults under Maine law. The legislation drafted by the students



extends the state court jurisdiction in parental rights and responsibilities, custody, and guardianship cases, and enables these youth to obtain Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

Members of the task force, including Arvizu and Sedlack, testified before the Legislature's Judiciary Committee, which gave the bill its unanimous support. LD 1596, An Act to Enhance the Long-Term Stability of Certain At-Risk Youth, was signed into law by

Governor Janet Mills '76 on June 18, 2019.

Welch says the benefits of this new law are already evident. "Recently, a young adult whom the Clinic assisted in getting a predicate order was granted lawful permanent residence by the United States Citizen and Immigration Services and is now on a path to becoming a U.S. citizen," she says. "This law was life changing for this individual because, absent this new law, the client would be at risk of deportation."

Maine Law Launches Arctic Law Fellowship Program

In early 2020, augmenting its Ocean and Coastal program, Maine Law launched the innovative Arctic Law Fellowship program. This new program provides opportunities for students to study the intersections of law and science coupled (pre-pandemic) with field experiences at an Arctic location. Charles H. Norchi, the Benjamin Thompson Professor of Law at Maine Law, supervises the Arctic Law Fellows.

The inaugural fellows, Sander Goldthwait '21 and Eli Murphy '21, traveled to Tromsø, Norway to study at the Arctic University of Norway in January 2020. Although their time in Norway was shortened due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they were able to study in the Arctic and undertake research which they completed in Maine. Each has plans to return to Norway.

This past summer, Arctic Law Fellows Lexis Anderson '21 and Justin Cary '22 were to participate with scientists in an expedition to Greenland guided by Professor Norchi and Paul Mayewski, director of the Climate Change Institute. The pandemic caused the cancellation of that mission, however, the students spent a productive summer working on an expedition law project with the Maine-based Arctic Futures Institute.

The Fellowship is one of many Arctic-focused opportunities available to students at Maine Law. Students can work on scholarship as members of the *Ocean & Coastal Law Journal* and participate in research through the Law School's Center for Oceans and Coastal Law. Students may also participate in a new collaborative training program, the Systems Approaches to Understanding and Navigating the New Arctic (SAUNNA), with the University of Maine Climate Change Institute. SAUNNA was recently launched under a National Science Foundation (NSF) award.



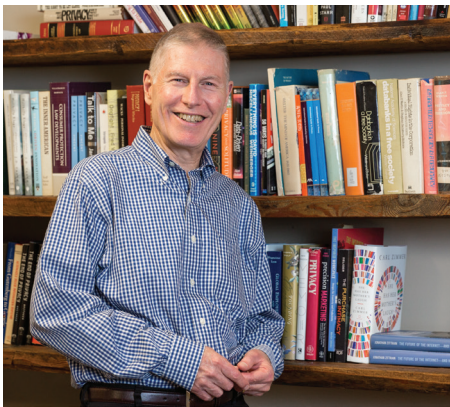
Arctic Law Fellows Sander Goldthwait and Eli Murphy in Norway.

Maine Law's Pandemic Pivot: Information Privacy Summer Institute

By Patty McCarthy

As they “drew in a big breath and went for it” last March, Professors Peter Guffin and Rita Heimes weren’t sure about their choice to hold Maine Law’s Information Privacy Summer Institute virtually in the summer of 2020.

They were pleasantly surprised and relieved when two months later “it went terrifically,” says Guffin, a Maine Law professor of practice who directs the Information Privacy Law Program and chairs Pierce Atwood’s Privacy & Data Security practice.



Professor Peter Guffin

The eleventh annual event, which featured courses taught by leading privacy professionals from around the country, was held virtually via Zoom from May 26 – June 12, 2020. The courses took a multi-faceted approach to examine the many privacy issues that have arisen as a result of the pandemic. Topics included privacy and the pandemic, AI technologies, emerging regulatory frameworks, and data protection and ethics. A one-day Privacy and Practice Conference was also held virtually on May 29, 2020 as part of the Summer Institute.

“It’s been important to have fresh offerings each year,” says Heimes, senior privacy fellow at Maine Law and privacy officer at the International Association of Privacy Professionals. “Because each summer we get to change it, it’s practical, interesting, cutting-edge, and we keep up with the times.”



Professor Rita Heimes

These efforts are being noticed.

Greg Powell '80 says he was flabbergasted to realize all that he’d been missing when he attended the Privacy in Practice Conference two summers ago to fulfill his CLE requirement.

“What a great assembly of people! And so much valuable information provided about such an important area that relates to all businesses,” says Powell, chairman of the Harold Alfond Foundation. “I was highly impressed with the caliber of the conference.”

The virtual format of 2020 made it easier for Maine lawyers and other professionals who wanted to focus on a particular aspect of privacy to fit in a course or two. It made it possible for top-notch instructors, located anywhere, to teach a summer privacy course without needing to travel to Maine. Additionally, students located in other states could now attend without leaving their homes.

These pluses have the potential to vastly expand the reach of the Summer Institute and that’s a top goal for Guffin and Heimes, who have already begun to plan the program for 2021. The 12th annual event will be held virtually May 24 – June 10, 2021, and will feature offerings like a student showcase, and sessions on competition law, AI, and privacy.

Heimes and Guffin have also been brainstorming on ways to enhance online learning this summer, including holding courses during evenings and Fridays to reduce time away from work, school, or

other commitments.

“We’re trying to broaden the audience,” Heimes says. One big step toward that is focusing on creating a bridge to Northeastern University’s Roux Institute, a new innovation hub, graduate school, and research center in Portland that may co-host this summer’s Privacy in Practice Conference.

“We’re looking for ways to collaborate with the Roux Institute and other graduate and professional programs at the University of Maine because information privacy is not just the domain of lawyers. It intersects with many other disciplines,” Guffin says.

“Privacy problems are by their nature multidisciplinary, and finding solutions requires collaboration by lawyers with technical experts and other professionals,” he continues. “Privacy lawyers aren’t going to be able to do their jobs very effectively in my view, unless they’re able to communicate and understand what other disciplines need and can contribute to solving these problems.”

Privacy is a critical area to emphasize right now, Heimes says, and one rich with opportunities for Maine Law students.

“In the early days, for the most part, privacy was a side gig that intellectual property lawyers did when their clients needed a privacy policy,” she says. “The field has been growing steadily since early 2000, but now it’s really going crazy. There’s massive growth in this space and a demand for lawyers doing privacy.”

The 12th annual event will be held virtually May 24 - June 10, 2021.

Registration for the 2021 Information Privacy Summer Institute and the Privacy in Practice Conference will open this spring.

Remembering Juliet Holmes-Smith '98

By Dean Leigh I. Saufley

Every once in a while, we realize that we have had a quiet hero right in our midst. Juliet Holmes-Smith was just such a hero. Much has now been written about her background, her journeys before reaching Maine, her wonderful family – husband Campbell Badger and children Mary and Tom – and her extraordinary work in Maine on behalf of victims of domestic violence, people in poverty, and those without a voice, a champion, or an advocate.

Juliet was British through and through, although she was born in Hong Kong and traveled with her parents through Europe and the East as a child. She and Campbell met at school in England and made their way to the United States, through Massachusetts, eventually and fortunately for us, choosing to settle in Maine.

Both Juliet and Campbell graduated from Maine Law, and Juliet began her work helping people in the role of a lawyer when she was a student attorney in the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic. Beginning with her earliest jobs, Juliet spent the professional hours of her life helping people who desperately needed that help. She worked with teenage mothers, family crisis shelters, and with domestic violence centers, ultimately becoming the long-time executive director of the Volunteer Lawyers Project. Her advocacy for those in need led her to create much-needed clinics for unrepresented individuals in Maine courts. Her ability to be a thoughtful and articulate champion for those without a voice led to her appointment to numerous committees and commissions focused on ending domestic violence and helping families. Her passion and commitment to improving the lives of children and people in need meant that she made a huge difference in all of that work.

Juliet continued to help the students at Maine Law long after she had graduated, mentoring and inspiring the many students who had the chance to work with her. During her time at Pine Tree Legal Assistance and at the Volunteer Lawyers Project, she helped the Law School expand and improve the opportunities for students to do pro bono



work and to build that ethos of service and generosity early in their careers.

For those of us who had the honor and pleasure of working with Juliet through the years, what many of us will remember is that soft voice that belied the steel that ran beneath it. We will remember how her amazingly deep well of kindness lived side-by-side with a stubborn streak that allowed her to accomplish what others could not.

We will remember her wonderful and offbeat sense of humor, the kind of humor that could take you right out at the knees when you least expected it, and that was never aimed at the vulnerable people to whom she gave her life's energy. We will remember her uncompromising determination to make the changes that mattered.

We will remember her unerring sense of right and wrong, and her stubborn unwillingness to let go of something that needed to be done. We will remember that she changed lives and that she cared about others so deeply that she spent her too-short life making the world a better place. We will remember that she was a hero.

Before the pandemic, Juliet Holmes-Smith was named the recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented annually by the Alumni Engagement Committee of the University of Maine School of Law Foundation Board. The recipient is chosen for outstanding achievement, exceptional service to the advancement of the Law School, and service to the community. The award will be presented posthumously to Juliet at Maine Law's next reunion scheduled for September 17-19, 2021.

The Rural Lawyer Project: Summer 2020

By Liz Woodbury

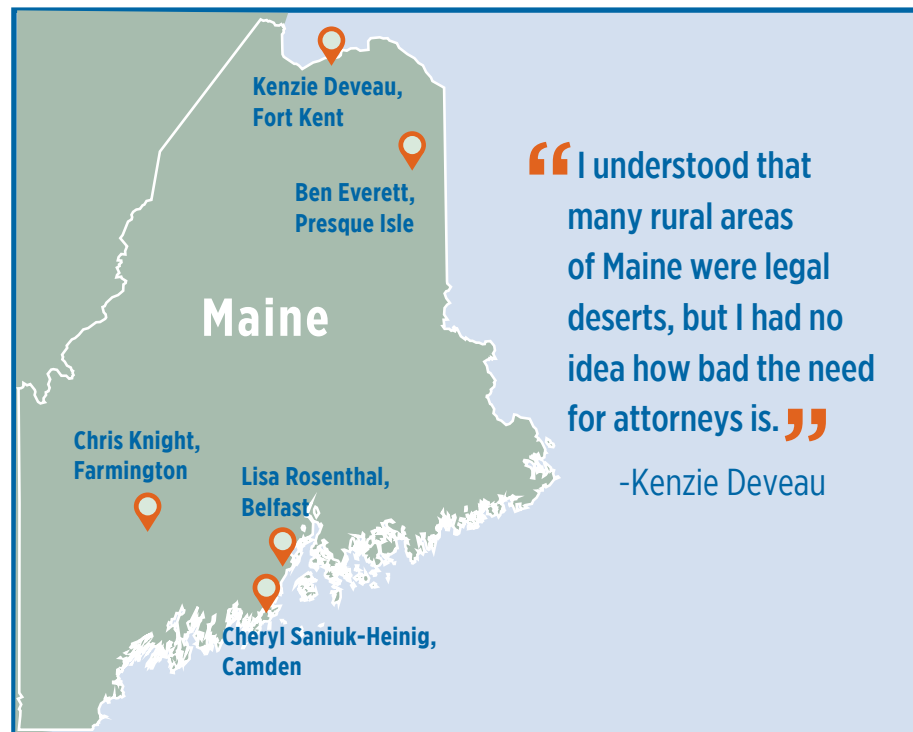
Since Maine Law launched the Rural Lawyer Project in 2017, the program has provided 2L and 3L students hands-on experience in rural legal practice by pairing them with lawyers who serve as mentors. The initial pilot funding for these fellowships was provided by the Maine Justice Foundation, with continued support provided by a three year Betterment Fund Grant.

In addition to the usual challenges of spending a summer working in busy general practice law firms, 2020's cohort of Rural Law Fellows also faced singular complications presented by the COVID-19 crisis. "The biggest difference was the 'new normal' of client meetings and communications happening primarily by phone, video, or even outdoors," says 3L **Cheryl Saniuk-Heinig**, who returned to the familiarity of Camden Law LLP in Camden in the unfamiliar context of a global pandemic.

A more positive difference **Saniuk-Heinig** experienced as a second-year fellow was the opportunity to work on projects she describes as "more tailored to both what I was interested in learning and sought more practice with." 3L **Ben Everett**, who returned to Swanson Law, P.A. in Presque Isle, had stayed in touch with the firm throughout the school year and was able to "see several cases through from start to finish." Having another year of law school under his belt also allowed him to "bring more substance" to his client interactions.

For 2L **Chris Knight**, whose fellowship took him to Sanders & Hanstein in Farmington, the pandemic provided one major letdown: "I was disappointed not to have the opportunity to work on or observe any jury trials," he says. Despite this blow, Knight says that "the program gave me the opportunity to experience practicing rural law while also receiving a highly immersive, hands-on experience. I was really able to engage with a huge variety of legal issues and projects."

At The Sutherland Law Firm, LLC in Belfast, 2L **Lisa Rosenthal** was men-



tored by an attorney whose solo practice includes court-appointed Guardian ad Litem and child protection work, family law, and civil litigation. Rosenthal says, "It was emotionally challenging to meet the playful children in person or on video, and then read about the physical and emotional abuse they've experienced, usually as a result of addiction and untreated mental health issues in their families." The experience made her decide to serve as a Guardian ad Litem, no matter what type of law she ultimately decides to practice.

2L **Kenzie Deveau**, who grew up in northern Maine, worked at the Law Office of Toby Jandreau, P.A. in Fort Kent. "I understood that many rural areas of Maine were legal deserts," she says, "but I had no idea how bad the need for attorneys is." She was also surprised by how much work is available to new lawyers in Aroostook County. "A new attorney in southern Maine typically takes any case they can get, but in northern Maine they could go to the court clerk and be presented with a stack of cases to pick from."

Deveau was also impressed by the judiciary's response to the pandemic: "We were able to have quick and simple pre-trial and dispositional conferences right from the office, without travel time or time waiting at the courthouse. In a rural area that makes a world of difference."

Several of the Fellows praise the ability of these rural law firms to quickly adjust to client needs in difficult circumstances. They're equally enthusiastic about the Rural Lawyer Project itself. Rosenthal says, "Working for a small practice in a small town enabled me to dive right in and hit the ground running. When I was choosing which law school to attend, a trusted advisor asked me, 'Do you want to represent people or corporations?' When I answered, 'People,' he advised me to seek experiences that gave me direct client contact – the Rural Lawyer Fellowship has done exactly that."

The Rural Lawyer Project is the result of a collaboration among the Law School, the Maine Justice Foundation, the Maine State Bar Association, and the Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar.

Moot Court Success 2020

It was a Moot Court year unlike any other before, yet Maine Law students still competed and found success.

PRE-PANDEMIC



Bryant-Moore Civil Rights Competition at Howard University School of Law

Best Overall Team

- Shianne Bowlin
 - Hilary Forsley
 - Sanchita Mukherjee
- Coach: Professor Angela Arey '05

Saul Lefkowitz Trademark Law at Suffolk Law

- Joe Boisvert
 - Mikayla Martin
 - Nathan Moore
- Coach: Professor Christine Davik

Jeffrey G. Miller National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition at Pace University Elisabeth Haub School of Law

The first Maine Law team to compete in this event advanced to the quarterfinals of a difficult competition with almost sixty teams from across the country.

Team member Paige Eggleston won **Best Oralist** in one of the preliminary rounds.

- Paige Eggleston
 - Nick Janzen
 - Emily Acritelli
- Coach: Professor Anthony Moffa



DURING THE PANDEMIC

Judge John R. Brown Admiralty Moot Court Competition virtually hosted by the University of Maine School of Law and the University of Texas School of Law

First entirely virtual moot court competition.

Team 1 won awards for **Best Petitioner's Brief** and **Semi-Finalist Team**.

Team 1:

- Julia MacDonald
- Susan Weidner

Team 2:

- Sam Martin
- Jon Ruterbories
- Joseph Shagoury

Coach: Professor Angela Arey '05

Maine Law students were prepared to compete in two additional competitions. Unfortunately, both of these competitions were canceled after the students had submitted their appellate briefs for each competition. Thank you to these students for their hard work.

Gibbons Criminal Procedure

- Suzy Dowling
 - Allison Kuhns
 - Katie Randall
- Coach: Professor Sara Wolff

Charleston National Moot Court Competition

- Nick Anania
 - Alex Andruzzi (Prize Arguer 2019)
 - Jordan Ramharter
- Coach: Professor Angela Arey '05

Because of the pandemic, the annual **Prize Argument before the Law Court** could not take place this year. The students selected for the 2020 Prize Argument were the winners of an internal competition at the Law School. Those students were:

Prize Arguers: ■ Suzy Dowling ■ Nick Janzen

Prize Briefs: ■ Suzy Dowling ■ Susan Weidner

Maine Law Hosts National Admiralty Moot Court Competition with the University of Texas School of Law in Virtual Courtrooms

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it seemed unlikely that the Judge John R. Brown Admiralty Moot Court Competition could go forward in early April 2020 as planned. Each year the University of Texas School of Law jointly holds the national Supreme Court advocacy competition with a local host law school – Maine Law for 2020. Law students and maritime lawyers from across the country had planned to come to Portland for the event. By mid-March, it became clear most of them would not be able to travel or gather in courtrooms, and cancellation seemed inevitable.

But canceling was not an option for Maine Law alumnus and adjunct faculty member Robert Bocko '85, who chaired Maine Law's organizing committee. "Our mission was to educate students first and foremost, and the competing students had already worked so hard," says Bocko. "We and our excellent partners in Texas were determined to hold the Competition on schedule. We saw that we had an opportunity to deliver a modern educational experience the likes of which may have never been attempted before."

Thus, plans for in person arguments were shelved and efforts quickly shifted to arranging for students to present oral arguments to judges in virtual courtrooms. The initial goal was to hold preliminary round arguments by phone and elimination round arguments via Zoom meetings. But as familiarity and comfort with Zoom grew during practice sessions with Competition judges, confidence emerged that arguments in all rounds could proceed in virtual Zoom courtrooms where students and judges could see and hear each other wherever they were located.

"I knew we were being ambitious in trying to hold the Competition remotely on two weeks' notice," says Professor Michael Sturley of the University of Texas Law School, "but having worked with Bob Bocko in the past, I knew that we could get it done."

On April 1, 2020, twenty-three teams from sixteen law schools began the four-



day Competition. Judges near and far, most of whom had never used Zoom before, grilled students and scored presentations from their homes or offices.

All teams presented arguments in three preliminary rounds. Top teams (based on brief and oral argument scores) advanced to the quarter and then semi-final rounds. Duke narrowly beat Florida State in the championship round argued on Zoom to First Circuit Judge Kermit Lipez and Justices Ellen Gorman and Joseph Jabar '71 of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court – a first for all three jurists.

"As a moot court judge, I did not think a great deal was lost being online with a visual connection," says Attorney Charles Rimmel II of Kelly, Rimmel, and Zimmerman. "What is engaging as a moot court judge is the energy the students bring to their participation and arguments. I was seeing the incoming generation of lawyers presenting at their best. This makes one optimistic about the future of justice under our system."

Two Maine Law teams competed, both coached by Professor Angela Arey '05. Team 1 included Julia MacDonald '20 and Susan Weidner '21, while Sam Martin '21, Jon Ruterbories '21, and Joe Shagoury '21 competed on Team 2.

"It was enjoyable to connect with law students and colleagues across the country – many in their kitchens and liv-

ing rooms," says Weidner. "Moot Court competitions are an exciting culmination of much time spent wrapping one's head around a particular legal issue and preparing to argue both sides of it – this time was no different in that regard, though it was certainly a different experience to make our arguments to attorneys and judges in an online format."

The Competition even held an awards ceremony on Zoom. Maine Law's Team 1 took a semi-finalist award and won the award for Best Petitioner's Brief.

Many people combined efforts to transform the Competition to virtual courtrooms. Elena Mihos '20 served as student competition director for the event, and (among many other things) she recruited over twenty 1Ls to serve as bailiffs. Texas Law Professor Michael Sturley, who has run the Competition for all of its 27 years, and Texas Law students Mackenzie Aden and Sarah Crockett ran the virtual courtrooms with Bocko. More than 40 lawyers dove into unfamiliar waters to judge arguments remotely on camera via Zoom, just as real judges across the country are now doing out of necessity.

Tulane University School of Law will host the Competition in 2021, but it will return to Maine in the spring of 2022 for oral arguments in stone and mortar Portland courthouses.

IS A THREAT TO
JUSTICE
EVERY WHERE !!!

HUMAN

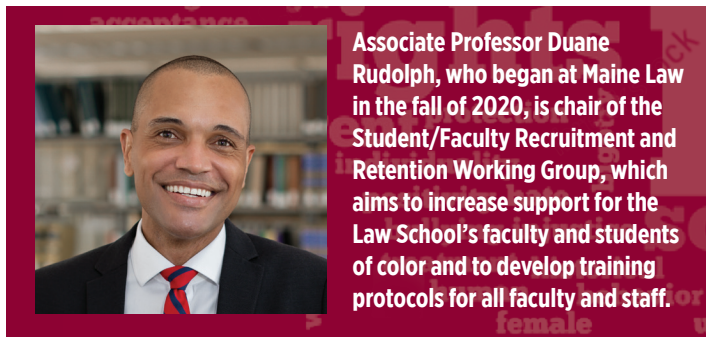
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Responding to Racial Injustice: It's Time for Action

By Liz Woodbury

Maine Law strives to be an anti-racist community, and in recent months it has begun to work on a number of significant new initiatives intended to support that goal. A focus on social justice and diversity have long been knit into the fabric of the Law School, but as Dean Leigh Saufley '80 said following the death of George Floyd in May of 2020, "What we have done is not enough." Floyd's killing at the hands of police and the national reckoning around systemic racism it galvanized have spurred the Law School to take real-world, actionable measures to help bring an end to racial injustice. "Our complacency has ended," says Saufley.

For the past five decades, the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic has played a major role in fulfilling the Law School's commitment to justice and equity through legal representation and policy work, which has included proposed legislation aimed at ending racial disparities in sentencing. New programming and curriculum, as well as a recently-formed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force, are among the latest measures Maine Law has enacted with the goal of creating a more inclusive, diverse, and supportive environment within the school community, the state, and beyond. In its public statement on Floyd's death, the Law School pledged to "continue the real work in Maine's communities that will be necessary for permanent change."



Racial Injustice Forums

On June 19, 2020, the Law School hosted the first in a series of public conversations designed to be a platform for critical discussions about the racism that exists within laws and institutions. Maine Law's Racial Injustice Forums are also intended to help identify specific policy and practice changes capable of transforming the Law School community and, ultimately, bringing an end to racial injustice. Dean Saufley says the Forums are one of many necessary steps in the process of “creating long-term systemic change to prevent further violence and injustices against people of color.”

The inaugural forum, titled “Reimagining Policing and Public Safety,” was held on Juneteenth, the nationally-observed holiday that commemorates the freeing of the last enslaved people in the U.S., nearly two years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. The discussion featured opening remarks by Governor Janet Mills '76, and panelists included Senator Angus King, state and local lawmakers, Law School faculty, and community activists. Over 500 people attended the first forum.

In July a second forum, “Uplifting Black and Brown Youth Voices to Inspire Change,” was led by six Maine-based youth activists. Organized by 3L Jon Ruterbories, with support from Jill Ward, project manager of the Maine Center for Juvenile Policy and Law, the event focused on listening to the lived experience of the young organizers and giving them full agency in the process. “They were the guiding lights,” says Ruterbories. “We completely turned it over to them.” Ladi Nzeyimana, an organizer with Portland Empowered and Maine Youth Justice who is a first-year student at Bowdoin College, facilitated the panel discussion and follow-up questions. In his opening remarks, Nzeyimana emphasized the importance of not merely listening, but the need “to take action and declare racism a pandemic.” Ruterbories notes that “the Maine legal community was well-represented among our attendees,” and says that about 200 people attended the forum. “Listening and learning isn't enough,” says Ruterbories, who hopes to see action spurred by the conversation. “The panelists felt listened to and recognized, but they said, ‘This is great – but give us an audience with Governor Mills and the people in power.’” He hopes to do just that, saying, “It's not coming off my to-do list until it happens.”

Racial Injustice Forums:
A Series of Conversations to Discuss Meaningful Change

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force

Another project that will continue into 2021 and beyond is Maine Law's new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force, which was established in October 2020. A collaborative effort, the Task Force evolved out of the Law School's long-standing Diversity Committee. Members include Maine Law alumni, faculty, staff, and current students, including a representative from the student Multicultural Law Society. Alumni member Krystal Williams '17 says, “Maine Law has a tremendous opportunity and obligation to be a thought leader and community partner in identifying solutions to end systemic discrimination.” The Task Force, she says, is a major step in the right direction.

Four dedicated Working Groups fall under the Task Force umbrella; each will meet once a month, with the entire Task Force also convening monthly. The Task Force – now co-chaired by Professor Jeff Maine and Megan York, administrative manager for patron services for the Law Library – is working in conjunction with the University of Maine System to create consistent and robust diversity practices.

The Curricular Initiatives Working Group, chaired by Professor Jeffrey Maine, is working on incorporating anti-racist pedagogy throughout the Law School's curriculum, in both new and existing courses. Reggie Parson '19, an alumni member of the curriculum-focused group, says he's optimistic about the Task Force and its potential to take what he calls “a concrete set of actions.” He says, “I don't recall such a feeling of forward momentum before this – the time feels right.” Parson's own law school experience included classes that addressed racial injustice but were only able “to scratch the surface” of such a complex and entrenched issue. “Having these productive conversations and seeing the willingness to move forward is very encouraging,” Parson says.

The Programming Working Group, chaired by Associate Professor Anthony Moffa, will focus on public outreach and educational opportunities, including forums and lectures.

Associate Professor Duane Rudolph, who began at Maine Law in the fall of 2020, is chair of the Student/Faculty Recruitment and Retention Working Group, which aims to increase support for the Law School's faculty and students of color and to develop training protocols for all faculty and staff.

The Diversity Plan Working Group is finalizing the details on a working document that will enumerate the Task Force's concrete and measurable goals.



Vice Dean Bam emphasizes that “discrimination issues permeate the law, and addressing them has always been a part of Maine Law’s curriculum.”



Since 2008, Professor Jennifer Wriggins has taught a class titled “Race, Gender, Sexual Orientation, and the Law.” In 2020, she presented to the law schools at Boston University, Duke University, and Yale University, among others, gaining additional national attention for her work on race, racism, and tort law.

PreLaw Undergraduate Scholars (PLUS) Program

Since 2016, the Law School’s PreLaw Undergraduate Scholars (PLUS) Program has made strides toward increasing diversity in law school and the legal profession, both in Maine and nationally. Designed for college students of color, immigrants, low-income students, students who are first in their families to attend college, and other underrepresented groups, the PLUS program offers undergraduates an immersive summer experience that gives them an opportunity to see themselves in the role of law student – and lawyer.

For 2L Brody Haverly-Johndro, the program offered access to resources that weren’t easily available to him as a rural, first-generation college student. “The PLUS Program exposed me to the crucial skills I’d need to be a lawyer, and it made the transition from undergrad to law school so much easier,” he says. Allison Bernier, a 1L student, comes from a similarly rural area and is also the first in her family to attend college. She says, “I’d imagine that people who grew up with lawyers in their life have been able to think of the law as a real career path since they were children.” For people without that example in their lives, the PLUS program can provide it. “The program is able to show people that law school is an actual possibility for them,” says Bernier. Haverly-Johndro adds that he chose Maine Law in part because of its “commitment to increased diversity and inclusion,” and that he is proud to be part of a program which “is fostering the next generation of a diverse group of leaders here in Maine and beyond.”

Academic Programming

As part of its 2020 Orientation programming, the Law School instituted a Common Read for incoming students. Faculty and students collaborated on selecting Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. The book, which demonstrates the ways systemic inequality can be perpetuated through laws and constitutions, spurred the types of conversations that the Law School intends to spark within its student body. Vice Dean Dmitry Bam says, “We also chose this book because it’s accessible to first-year law students and touches on so many themes they’ll encounter throughout law school.” The discussion during Orientation focused on the ways lawyers can exert change on laws and policies that uphold institutional injustice. “It’s a first step in the door,” says Bam, “for them to start thinking about their own role, how they might use their degree, and about the role of legislation.”

Several Maine Law course offerings, two of them brand new, provide students with similar opportunities to explore the ways racial injustice figures in the law, and how they themselves can

work against it. Since 2008, Professor Jennifer Wriggins has taught a class titled “Race, Gender, Sexual Orientation, and the Law,” which Bam describes as “a permanent part of the curriculum.” Wriggins says, “The course draws on constitutional law, statutory law, history, and legal theory in the areas of race, gender, and sexual orientation, also focusing on the intersections between them.” In 2020, Wriggins presented to the law schools at Boston University, Duke University, and Yale University, among others, gaining additional national attention for her work on race, racism, and tort law.

Bam emphasizes that “discrimination issues permeate the law, and addressing them has always been a part of Maine Law’s curriculum.” In addition to the work the DEI Task Force’s Curriculum Working Group will do moving forward to build on this foundation, the Law School is offering two new courses focused on racial disparities.

Both classes are team-taught, and each member of the full-time faculty will teach one of the two. “Racial Injustice in the Law,” which Bam calls a “deep dive into racial inequities and inequalities in various aspects of law,” is taught by between 10 and 12 professors. “Each spends an extra hour or two on their area of expertise, looking at the way racial issues permeate that specific topic,” says Bam. Subjects vary from week to week, covering legal areas including criminal law, family law, and land use, among others. “It’s a deeper focus on the roles racial inequality and racism play within each field,” he says.

The second new course, “Changing Laws and Policies,” is designed to demonstrate in a hands-on way how students can implement change themselves. Bam says the goal is “to teach students the nuts and bolts of changing laws and policies.” Students will have the opportunity to work through a process of identifying inequitable policies, exploring the most effective way to advocate for changes, and ultimately writing new policies. The course’s aim, says Bam, is for students to “drive the change themselves.”

The issue of racial injustice is complex and systemic, encompassing a spectrum of issues that includes the underrepresentation of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in law school, in the legal profession, and among the highest-ranking legal authorities. Dean Saufley notes, “Despite all of our work, the faces in the seats of power in Maine remain all white. No person of color has ever sat on Maine’s Supreme Judicial Court, served as Governor, as Speaker of the House, or President of the Senate.” As it strives for a lofty goal of providing pathways to true representation and equity in every area of the law, and eradicating racism in service, scholarship, and outreach, the Maine Law community is focused on system-wide solutions and concrete action.

The Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic Celebrates 50 Years of Advancing Access to Justice



Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic Professors Christopher Northrop, Deirdre Smith, Courtney Beer, Tina Schneider, and Anna Welch

By Liz Woodbury

2020 marked a significant milestone for Maine Law's Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic. This defining program – one of the oldest law school legal aid clinics in the nation – first opened its doors 50 years ago. Today, Maine Law's Clinic provides free legal advice and representation to more than 600 low-income Mainers every year, while training student attorneys in the real-life skills they will need to practice law.

“In medical school, students have residencies so they can be supervised in the practice of medicine. It's not a requirement in law school – but you take someone's life in your hands when you go in front of a judge or jury on their behalf. It just makes sense, before graduating, to have the kind of practice that the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic provides.”

Brandon Berg '21, Student Attorney, RHRC

Cushman Anthony established the Clinic in 1970, with the help of a grant from the Ford Foundation. Over the years, the Clinic's location has changed, from its Old Port beginnings in the former Grace Baptist Mission on Market Street, to the Law School basement, to a series of white houses on Exeter Street. But its mission has remained steadfast: to fulfill Maine Law's ongoing commitment to social justice and to provide hands-on, experiential training to its students.

The Clinic students are specially licensed to practice as attorneys while still in law school, under the supervision of Maine Law faculty who are licensed to practice law in Maine. “In every sense that student is the attorney on the case,” says Deirdre M. Smith '94, the Clinic's current director and associate dean for experiential education. Today, about half of all Maine Law students participate in one or more of the Clinic's many programs, gaining the practical skills and confidence they will need in their careers. Professor Anna Welch, who supervises students in the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic (RHRC), says this experience allows students to “apply concepts they've learned in the classroom to real-world examples.”

Over time, the Clinic has expanded to include four dedicated clinics – General Practice, Juvenile Justice, Prisoner Assistance, and Refugee and Human Rights – as well as a separate Protection From Abuse project. In 2000, an estimated 200 clients were served each year; the Clinic assists three times that many today. During the past 15 years, the Clinic's focus has also broadened to include more outreach and a significant amount of policy work.

Since its start a half century ago, the Clinic has consistently identified gaps in access to justice and worked to close them. It has had a profound impact on the entire state, giving thousands of Mainers equal access to justice that might have been denied to them because of their economic situation. It has also trained a generation of lawyers who are well-versed in the importance of public service, and who graduated practice-ready.

General Practice Clinic

According to Clinic Managing Director Deirdre M. Smith, general practice clinics have gone out of style at many law schools across the country. Smith, who has served as part of the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic faculty, supervising and mentoring students in Maine Law's General Practice Clinic (GPC), says, "Specialized clinics are great, but I love that we still have something that reflects the original vision for the Clinic." In fact, most of the Clinic's full-representation work happens in the GPC, which provides legal services to low-income Mainers in the form of student attorneys who are specially licensed by state and federal courts. "General Practice gives students the skills and relationships that are specific to practices that predominate throughout Maine," Smith says.

By design, cases in the GPC mirror those taken on by attorneys in small firms around the state, with an emphasis on family and criminal law. Ben Everett, a 3L from Aroostook County who plans to practice there after law school, says the GPC "offers exposure to the broad scope of legal issues I'm likely to encounter in that rural setting." This experience, he says, combined with the guidance and mentorship he's received, "will help me prepare to hit the ground running when I get home."

Many cases come to the GPC through community partnerships, says Smith. "We're responsive to the needs of the courts, and we're tightly

integrated with other legal aid providers. When we see a gap in services, that's an opportunity for collaboration." Students frequently take on cases after connecting with clients during weekly Protection From Abuse days in Lewiston District Court. "We look for cases where there's some complexity and a high degree of need," says Smith. As well as family law issues like parental rights, divorce, and child support, cases also include other civil matters such as probate, administrative, and consumer law, and a range of criminal defense cases. Meghan Szylyvian '12, now a supervising attorney in the Attorney General's Office, remembers taking on a head-spinning variety of cases in a single semester, "From divorces and juvenile clients to state and federal criminal cases, as well as helping to incorporate a non-profit."

Everett says, "There's no such thing as a 'typical' day in the GPC." He describes the work as challenging and ever-changing. "My clients are dealing with dynamic legal issues that bend and flex on a daily basis," he says. Smith agrees that the work can be demanding. "We push students beyond their comfort level," she says. "And it's daunting to be entrusted with someone's story and legal problems. But we provide them an elaborate system of safety nets, with all the support, mentoring, and supervision they might need." Szylyvian notes that among the many "firsts" she experienced in the GPC, "it's also the first time you experience failure as a lawyer – but it's met by the guiding hand of the faculty who are there to educate new generations of lawyers."

The GPC's goal could hardly be more straightforward. "Our entire job is to help our students learn how to be great lawyers," says Smith. "No matter what they've done before this, it is the first time they will be in the role of having a client, interacting with court – of actually being an attorney." For students, this means learning to counsel

and interview clients, negotiate with opposing parties, and argue effectively in court, among many other skills. "In classes, I learned the law," says Szylyvian. "In Clinic, I learned to be a lawyer."

Smith says that as law in Maine has grown more complex over time, the GPC has evolved along with it. COVID-19 hasn't slowed them down either. "In fact," says Smith, "students have quickly become well versed in best practices for remote work, including court hearings and client interviews." Smith's long-term goal is to stay the course that the GPC has charted over the years. "I want to continue to reflect how law is practiced in Maine, and to prepare students for that. We've always managed to be reflective and responsive to the ongoing changes in legal practice. I think we'll continue to do that."

Protection From Abuse Project

Established in 1999

Every Friday morning, two or three Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic student attorneys arrive at Lewiston District Court in time for the 8:30 am docket call. Under the supervision of Adjunct Clinical Professor Tina Schneider, they spend a fast-paced day – frequently working right through lunch – representing plaintiffs in Protection From Abuse (PFA) cases. "I can't tell you how often you see the utter relief on a client's face when they realize they won't have to represent themselves," says Sanchita Mukherjee, a 3L at Maine Law. "The idea of being on their own in a courtroom can be terrifying."

It's hard to overstate the value of the PFA program to the Clinic students, each of whom is required to sign up for at least two PFA days during the semester, and to the approximately 200 clients they serve each year. For these particular plaintiffs, representation is especially important, says District Court Judge Susan Oram. "Court appearances are always stressful, but the stakes are high in these cases. We are very fortunate to have the Clinic students."

Some students find it challenging to be "constantly thinking on their feet," as Schneider describes it, but she says that most "absolutely love the work – the fast pace, the legal issues, and these particular clients," and many sign up for additional days. The project's overwhelming benefit, she adds, is that "if you want trial experience, doing a PFA case is the way to get it." Mukherjee describes the program as "the most immediate presentation of the judiciary that any student attorney is ever going to see."

Smith says that while Clinic students have represented clients in PFA matters since the PFA statute's enactment in 1980, "consistent weekly coverage of the PFA docket in Lewiston District



Ben Everett '21 General Practice Clinic

Hometown: Fort Fairfield, ME

Undergraduate: A.A.S. in emergency medical services from Northern Maine Community College and B.A. in business administration, University of Maine at Presque Isle

“The Clinic remains a pillar of real-life legal education for those who intend to live and serve right here in the State of Maine. The experience it offers to Maine Law students is truly expansive, and can provide a crucial stepping-off point for a fruitful professional life.”



Sanchita Mukherjee '21 Protection From Abuse Project

Hometown: Sarasota, FL
Undergraduate: B.S. in microbiology and cell sciences,
University of Florida

“For students in the Clinic, PFA day is the most boots on the ground that a student attorney could ever be. It’s the most immediate presentation of the judiciary that any student attorney is ever going to see.”

Court became a distinct Clinic program in 1999,” under the guidance of then-Clinical Professor (now Superior Court Justice) Valerie Stanfill ’85, aided by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. Schneider has overseen the project since 2006 in collaboration with Safe Voices, a domestic violence advocacy and services nonprofit organization. “They provide emotional support and safety planning for our clients. And if we can’t take on a case, they fill in to negotiate between parties,” says Schneider.

While the project’s mission has remained constant, Schneider has witnessed many changes over the years, including the nature of evidence itself. “Increasingly, it takes the form of cell phone photos and social media posts,” she says. COVID-19 has also caused some changes. Schneider typically sits with her student and their client during hearings, available for advice and questions. “We were a foot and a half away from each other,” she says. “And that won’t work now.” Instead, she remains in the gallery with her cell phone, one earbud in, advising her student remotely. “I’ll be whispering, ‘Object: relevance!’ and the student will object.”

She can’t say for sure that it’s connected to the pandemic, but Schneider has also seen a recent increase in PFA filings. “One week, the list of cases was three pages long,” she says. “I’ve never seen that before, in 14 years.” Mukherjee attests to the busy docket. “My first day ever, I had five clients, which is almost unheard of.”

While Schneider and her students have rallied to meet the challenges presented by social distancing, she notes one sad side effect. “We used to drive up and back together. It was a chance to learn about students’ lives, answer questions about cases, and debrief about the day. That’s gone now.”

For many of Schneider’s students, the PFA experience is transformative. “Some of them are petrified by the idea of actually arguing in court. It can be intimidating,” she says. “I suspect that

if it weren’t required, some of them wouldn’t do it.” After some initial trepidation, Mukherjee came to a gradual realization about herself: “I absolutely love being in a courtroom.” Witnessing this, Schneider says, is one of the best things about her job. “You can see them realize, ‘I can do this – and I like it!’ A student hits their stride, and it’s lovely.”

Prisoner Assistance Clinic

Established in 2003

When Jim Burke launched Maine Law’s Prisoner Assistance Clinic (PAC) in 2003, it was “a total unknown,” he says. “There were just a few people pushing for it.” Among those original boosters were Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic Acting Director Valerie Stanfill and Calien Lewis, executive director of the Maine Bar Foundation (now the Maine Justice Foundation). They had identified a critical lack of access to justice in the state’s prison population: incarcerated people who faced pressing civil concerns were frequently unable to obtain legal counsel. Federal law precluded federally funded legal aid for prisoners, and an inability to access online resources meant they couldn’t acquire even basic legal information. Stanfill tapped

Burke to head up a new sub-clinic that would fall under the Clinic’s umbrella. Clinic Managing Director Deirdre Smith says, “Jim had no model to work from when he built the PAC – there was no precedent for law students going into the prison and talking to the prisoners.” The Maine Bar Foundation provided the discretionary grant that made this innovative project possible.

Burke nurtured the PAC through its first 17 years, cultivating its reputation within the community and the prison system itself. “As time went on,” he says, “we became a trusted and valued ally and service that the Department of Corrections appreciated for its positive effect on the inmates.” Burke retired in 2019, and in January 2020 Courtney Beer ’07, former directing attorney at Pine Tree Legal Assistance’s Kids Legal project, joined the Law School faculty to oversee the PAC. A Clinic alumna herself, she calls it a “dream job,” adding, “There’s nothing better than being able to teach students the work I found so incredibly rewarding myself.”

Student attorneys, supervised by Beer, take on up to 20 cases per semester, meeting with clients at the Maine Correctional Center in Windham or advising them remotely over the phone. Each year, PAC students provide legal information, advice, and representation to hundreds of incarcerated clients on a wide range of legal matters, from family law concerns such as divorce and custody to bankruptcy, probate, small claims, and other civil issues. PAC alumnus Devie Hamlen ’05 says, “Most of my clients were dealing with things that happen to people who don’t have a lot of money.” This remains true of PAC clients today.

Before starting law school, 3L Shianne Bowlin wrote her Master’s thesis on the barriers to effective re-entry for incarcerated people. The PAC has given her a unique opportunity for hands-on experience in an area about which she cares deeply.

Shianne Bowlin '21 Prisoner Assistance Clinic

Hometown: Princeton, IN
Undergraduate: B.A. in psychology, Spanish, and criminal justice, University of Southern Indiana
Graduate: M.S. in forensic psychology, Arizona State University

“I firmly believe that regardless of an individual’s background, they still deserve help, and the Prisoner Assistance Clinic gives me the chance to act on that belief. By providing assistance without judgment or bias, we can help reshape people’s perceptions of the legal system.”



"It allows me to directly help people with legal issues that could inhibit them from success," she says. Unresolved matters like bankruptcy or a loss of parental custody can make re-entry more difficult on an individual level, but the effect is societal as well. "The benefits to the state of Maine are enormous," Smith says. "Taking care of problems while people are still incarcerated means more success in employment, family connections, and reintegrating with the community."

Beer says, "These are the most appreciative clients I've ever worked with. It's obvious in their interactions with the students, as well as their kind words and evaluations. They have no way to access information around civil legal issues – and we bridge that gap for them." In addition to the advice and representation student attorneys provide their clients, says Smith, "they're also giving them the knowledge and confidence they need to advocate for themselves."

One of Beer's long-term goals is to provide an even greater level of service statewide. Challenges presented by COVID-19 have had a silver lining, allowing her student attorneys to hone their ability to "lawyer remotely." She says, "Now that we know we can provide really solid remote legal assistance, I'd love to eventually do more proactive outreach." In the meantime, the PAC's original mission persists. At one point during his work as a student attorney, Hamlen realized that "these were mostly good people who had a bad moment in their lives." And as Burke says, "If you treat people with respect and show them they're heard, it's amazing what can happen."

Juvenile Justice Clinic

Established in 2006

Since it was founded by Clinical Professor Christopher Northrop in 2006, the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic's Juvenile Justice Clinic (JJC) has stood apart from most comparable projects. "The majority of juvenile clinics were focused on individual representation of youth who were charged with crimes," says Northrop. "We wanted to build a clinic that did that, but also took lessons from what we saw in court and translated them into policy." Over the past 15 years, that's precisely what the JJC has achieved.

The impetus for a policy-focused juvenile clinic at the Law School came from a 2003 assessment of access to counsel in Maine juvenile justice cases. The report, from the American Bar Association Juvenile Justice Center and the New England Juvenile Defender Center, found

many areas that needed improvement. It also specifically recommended the formation of a clinic that would strengthen the juvenile justice defense bar through both practice and policy. With the help of a generous grant from the Sam L. Cohen Foundation, Northrop spent the next few years building a pilot program.

JJC student attorneys, licensed by state and federal courts and supervised by Northrop, provide direct representation to young clients in a variety of ways, including as counsel in juvenile proceedings and as Lawyers of the Day (LOD) in Cumberland and York County. Client referrals come from community partners including Preble Street Teen Center, as well as from judges, defense attorneys, and prosecutors.

"I was convinced to go to law school because of the Juvenile Justice Clinic," says Anne Sedlack '20, who got her foot in the door during her 1L year as a fellow in the Maine Center for Juvenile Policy and Law (MCJPAL), a new program within the Clinic. Since 2017, aided by a generous grant from the John T. Gorman Foundation, the MCJPAL has partnered with the JJC, supporting its policy initiatives. MJCPAL Project Manager Jill Ward says, "Students who identify policy or practice barriers they can't address by representing their client can bring those issues to the Center."

Jon Ruterbories, a 3L at Maine Law, has seen his own policy work "come full circle" as a student attorney. After collaborating on a guide for juvenile LODs, he says, "It's amazing – a year after helping create it, I actually get to use it as LOD in Biddeford District Court." The need for such a guide, and the student-led effort to fill that need, illustrates Northrop's assertion that "when we see something that's a systematic issue, we have the ability to take it on, on a policy level."

Over the past 15 years, Northrop has observed significant positive changes in the court system. "The population at Long Creek has declined over the years, from about 200 to around 40 today," he says. "Over half of the cases that begin with police contact never go to court." In these instances, instead of facing probation or incarceration, young people form plans with juvenile probation officers that might include community service or treatment. "The numbers are incredible," says Northrop. "Youth who get informal adjustments just don't get in trouble again," nor do they carry criminal records with them into their adult lives.

Ruterbories praises the JJC's broad impact, saying, "I don't think youth in Maine would have anywhere close to effective representation without this clinic." Systemic policy reform initiated by students in the JJC obtained



Painting by David Silsby '58

PRESENT DAY

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2019, the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic provided varying levels of legal assistance to more than **651** clients.

■ Clinic clients came from at least **19** countries of origin.

■ **51** students at Maine Law enrolled in Clinic courses in 2019.

■ In addition, the Clinic hired **6** student interns, **1** public policy Cushman Anthony Fellow, and **1** juvenile policy Maine Association for Public Interest Law Fellow for the summer of 2019 as part of the Summer Intern Program.

■ Students who participated in Clinic in 2019 were exposed to a range of proceedings where they gained valuable experience appearing as counsel in the following: **9** interim hearings; **49** Protection From Abuse trials; **196** Protection From Abuse agreements presented to the Court; **56** juvenile proceedings; **13** family law final hearings or trials; **12** mediations; **5** judicial settlement conferences; **44** non-hearing proceedings before family law magistrates; **20** arraignments; **10** change of pleas; **37** criminal dispositional conferences; **6** sentencing hearings; **3** asylum interviews; **1** marriage-based petition interview; and numerous other miscellaneous appearances.



Jon Ruterbories '21 Juvenile Justice Clinic

Hometown: South Portland, ME
Undergraduate: B.A. in education with a minor in molecular biology, Saint Louis University

“I don’t think youth in the state of Maine would have anywhere close to effective representation without the Juvenile Justice Clinic.”

the support of Maine’s Supreme Judicial Court, which promulgated a 2015 amendment to the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure ending the practice of shackling children in juvenile court. Similar advocacy, in partnership with the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic, garnered the support of the Maine Legislature, which enacted a 2019 law that broadened Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for youth between the ages of 18 and 21 (see News Brief p. 8).

Northrop says the JJC’s ultimate goal “is to put itself out of business.” He adds, “We would love to change from juvenile justice to youth justice, including the 21 to 25 year-old group as well.” The future looks bright, thanks in large part to the policy work of his own clinical students. And as Sedlack emphasizes, the JJC has already had a profound impact in Maine: “Both Chris and Jill have taught their students – and the criminal justice system itself – to recognize that kids are kids, and they should be treated that way.”

Refugee and Human Rights Clinic

Established in 2012

In her eight years at the helm of Maine Law’s Refugee and Human Rights Clinic (RHRC), Clinical Professor Anna Welch has witnessed continual shifts in both the needs of Maine’s immigrant community and in the laws that affect them. “Part of our work is ensuring that lawyers stay on top of these ever-evolving changes,” she says. One thing that has remained constant is the demand for what she and her students are providing: legal representation and advocacy for this vulnerable, underserved group.

In designing the RHRC, Welch drew on her student experience in the International Human Rights Clinic at American University Washington College of Law, as well as her work as an immigration attorney. She’d long been impressed by Maine Law’s Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic but

noted the absence of a dedicated program serving the state’s growing immigrant and refugee population. In collaboration with the Immigrant Legal Aid Project (ILAP) and Clinic Managing Director Deirdre Smith, and with seed grants from the Sam L. Cohen and Davis Family Foundations, the RHRC became a reality in 2012.

The youngest of the clinics, its reputation is already formidable. It’s what attracted students like 3L Kelsey Lee to Maine Law in the first place. “I knew Professor Welch had created some incredible opportunities to learn and serve immigrants in Maine and at the U.S.-Mexico border. It’s why I chose to come here,” she says. 3L Brandon Berg was drawn to the RHRC for similar reasons. “It’s also personal for me, as a first-generation American on my mom’s side,” he says. “This work feels important and timely.”

In a typical semester, RHRC student attorneys, supervised by Welch and Adjunct Clinical Professor Erica Schair-Cardona, work directly with refugees and political asylum seekers. As well as representing clients in immigration court and providing advice about asylum cases, the students also work with abused or abandoned children seeking legal status in the U.S., domestic violence plaintiffs, and immigrant victims of

crimes, among others.

Outreach projects have taken students as far afield as the Laredo Detention Center in Texas and the Artesia Center, a now-shuttered detention facility in New Mexico. “We were the first legal team from Maine to go to Artesia,” says Welch. In 2014, RHRC student attorneys spent a week representing women and children who were detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) after fleeing conditions of extreme violence and poverty in their home countries.

More recently, the RHRC’s work has increasingly focused on local immigrant detention, including detainees held at the Cumberland County Jail, as ICE’s presence has grown in New England. “We only get an hour or two with each client, to help them understand their chances of defense against deportation,” says Berg. “It’s so personal when you’re sitting there hearing someone’s stories.” COVID-19 has also forced some temporary changes. “The border is shut down right now, so asylum cases are stalled,” says Welch. “And honestly, there’s enough to do in our own backyard.”

“Maine has over 6,000 asylum seekers right now,” Welch says. “My hope is to train a new generation of lawyers who can take on these cases.” Clinic alumna Joann Bautista ’18 emphasizes the RHRC’s essential role in the state: “The issue can seem very far away, but the RHRC brings it home. As the demographics of Maine change, it plays a critical part in helping our friends and neighbors establish their lives here.”

Welch’s ultimate goal is to further serve the community by opening a Refugee and Human Rights Center at the Law School. “I’ve proposed hiring a staff attorney so we’d have the capacity to do even more work,” she says. Smith shares this vision, citing the strong interest law students have in this field, and says, “We’re hoping to build on the great success and significant impact of the RHRC by expanding our work providing education, outreach, and systemic advocacy in the area of immigration and human rights law.”



Kelsey Lee '21 Refugee and Human Rights Clinic

Hometown: Lincoln, NE
Undergraduate: B.A. in anthropology with a minor in human rights and humanitarian affairs, University of Nebraska

“There is a huge need in Portland for asylum representation. The RHRC’s work truly helps meet this need and provides high quality representation for its clients.”

CLINIC MILESTONES

1969

■ Maine Legislature amends 4 M.R.S.A. § 807 to permit eligible law students to practice under faculty supervision and pursuant to rules set by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

■ University of Maine School of Law Dean Edward Godfrey obtains a grant from the Council on Legal Education for Professional Responsibility (funds provided by the Ford Foundation) to launch the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic.

1970

■ Founding Director Cushman Anthony establishes the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic. The first location was in the Old Port at the former Grace Baptist Mission on Market Street.

1972

■ Professor Judy Potter starts as director of the Clinic.



1977

■ The Clinic receives the Emil Gumpert award of the American College of Trial Lawyers for excellence in the teaching of trial advocacy.

1988

■ Professor Michael W. Mullane starts as director of the Clinic.



■ Clinic moves to 65 Exeter Street location.

1995

■ Clinic moves to new location at 59 Exeter Street – 50% larger than previous offices.



1998



■ Maine's current Governor, Janet T. Mills, then an attorney in private practice in Skowhegan, supervises Clinic summer interns.

■ Scott Gould starts as director of the Clinic.

1999

■ U.S. Justice Department Office of Violence Against Women awards Clinic the first grant to represent plaintiffs in Protection From Abuse proceedings in Lewiston District Court on a weekly basis.

2001

■ Professor Valerie Stanfill starts as interim director of the Clinic.

2003

■ Professor Jim Burke launches the Prisoner Assistance Clinic with grant funds provided by the Maine Bar Foundation and the Maine Department of Corrections.



■ Funds raised during the Law School's Foundations for the Future Campaign provides for expansion and improved accessibility of the Clinic building.

2004

■ Professor Deirdre Smith starts as director of the Clinic.



2006

■ Professor Chris Northrop launches the Juvenile Justice Clinic with grant funds from the Sam L. Cohen Foundation and Maine Bar Foundation, among others.



■ Professor Tina Schneider begins as faculty supervisor for the Protection From Abuse program.

2008

■ The Chronicle of Higher Education profiles two Clinic student attorneys for their representation of Maine college students targeted in file sharing litigation brought by the Recording Industry Association of America.

2011

■ Clinic establishes the Cushman D. Anthony Summer Fellowship in juvenile policy.

■ Safe Voices honors the Clinic with "Community Hero Award" for "invaluable efforts on behalf of victims of domestic violence in the courtroom."

2012

■ Professor Anna Welch launches the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic with grant funds provided by the Sam L. Cohen Foundation and the Davis Family Foundation.



2013

■ Adjunct Clinical Professor Tina Schneider receives Thomas P. Downing Award.

2017

■ Maine Center for Juvenile Policy and Law launches with a grant from the John T. Gorman Foundation. Jill Ward begins as project manager.

■ Professor Christopher Northrop receives "Unsung Hero Award" from the Maine Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys.

■ Maine Law receives a grant from Sam L. Cohen Foundation to create the Sam L. Cohen Refugee and Human Rights Clinical Professorship.

2018

■ Professor Christopher Northrop receives Robert E. Shepherd Jr. Leadership Award for Excellence in Juvenile Defense from the National Juvenile Defender Center.



2019

■ Professor Jim Burke receives the Howard H. Dana, Jr. Award from the Maine Justice Foundation.

2020

■ Professor Courtney Beer starts as director of the Prisoner Assistance Clinic, following the retirement of Prof. Burke.



■ Professor Anna Welch receives Thomas P. Downing, Jr. Award.

■ In honor of the Clinic's 50th Anniversary, Maine Law launches a fundraising effort to support Clinic Summer Interns.

■ Maine Supreme Judicial Court expands its student practice rules to allow practice as a student attorney after three semesters of law school.

ALUMNI MEMORIES

How did your Clinic experience influence your career path?

“As a law student, you learn about laws and cases that can sometimes seem dusty and archaic, with little relationship to everyday life. But as a student attorney at the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, I learned about how the law affects peoples’ lives. I represented people in cases that could dictate their family life or their criminal record. My clients mattered and their cases mattered. And, with the help of the clinical professors, I learned that I had the skills to help. A legal education is a powerful thing, and the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic taught me the power of using legal skills on behalf of people who need it most.”



Emma Bond '12
Legal Director
ACLU of Maine

“The Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic provided me with hands-on mentoring and guidance from legal experts that cared deeply about my professional development, all while working on actual legal matters that substantially contributed to the needs of the local community. The experience was invaluable for me, not only by providing me with tangible legal training that I still benefit from to this day, but by connecting me with a community of service-minded colleagues that remain one of my primary professional networks.”



Ira Sterling '12
Attorney
Injured Workers' Legal Center

“While at the Clinic, I quickly learned that I was fascinated by the dynamic nature of family law. It became clear to me that courtroom experience was the key to a successful career in family law and I am thankful for the abundance of courtroom opportunities that the Clinic had to offer. The thought provoking case strategy conversations with faculty supervisors and my colleagues left a lasting impact on me. Because of this, I was able to pursue a career in family law without hesitation. As a family law practitioner, I am constantly calling upon the foundational skills and life lessons that I gained from the Clinic.”



Whitney Lallas '19
Associate Attorney, Family Law Matters
MittelAsen

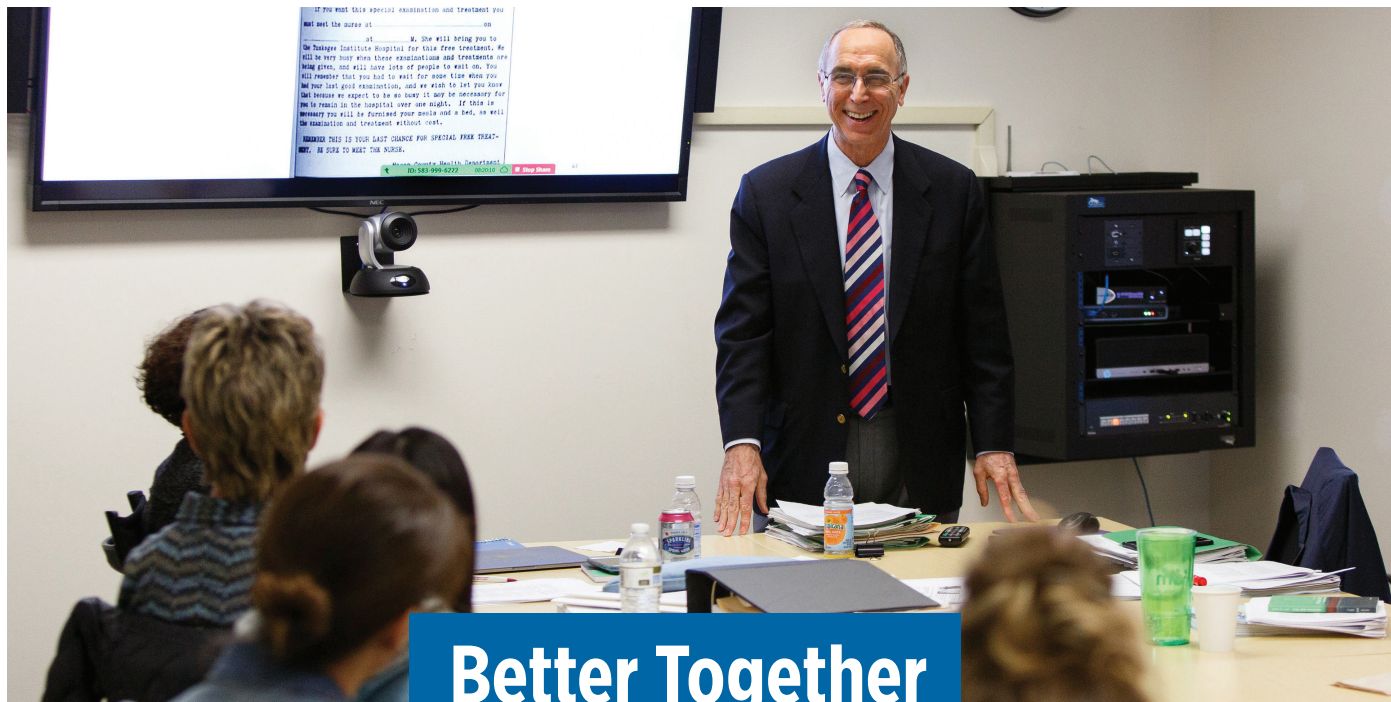
“As a Summer Clinic Intern, the professors, clients, and caseload shaped my path to becoming a legal aid attorney in countless ways. I learned from excellent faculty how to provide compassionate legal counsel in a down-to-earth and understandable manner. Whether in family law, immigration law, or a number of other civil legal areas, we were constantly challenged to meet our clients where they were while also crafting written and oral arguments for the courtroom. We had to bring our legal education to the real world, including the really practical elements of “how do you use a legal interpreter to meet with a client?” “How do you use cell phone evidence?” “What happens if your client’s testimony isn’t what you expected?”

The experience was rich with finding solutions for real human needs – something I try to do every day in my career as a staff attorney at Pine Tree Legal Assistance, where I hone the skills I learned in the Clinic to meet the needs of low income Mainers in many areas of law including housing, consumer, and public benefits.”

Christopher Marot '14
Staff Attorney
Pine Tree Legal Assistance



1970 - 2020



Professor Andrew Kaufman

Better Together

Maine Law and the University of Maine
Graduate and Professional Center
teaming up is not just mutually beneficial
– it helps the entire state of Maine

By Patty McCarthy

The University of Maine School of Law’s academic program is enriched by collaborations that help students, faculty, and staff throughout the University of Maine System discover innovative solutions that help the entire state of Maine.

The Law School has experienced significant support for these collaborations in the past few years as the University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center, known simply as the Maine Center, has come into its own and taken the lead to make sure such connections happen. The Maine Center is cultivating a collaborative culture that brings together the students, faculty, staff, and programs of Maine Law, the University of Maine’s Graduate School of Business, and the University of Southern Maine’s Muskie School of Public Service and the Cutler Institute of Health and Social Policy. With the advent of the latest extraordinary gift from the Harold Alfond Foundation, those disciplines will soon be joined by engineering, computing, and data sciences. Joining forces in this interdisciplinary way allows program participants to gain a rich, multifaceted understanding of subjects that will help them to meet the needs of civic, non-profit, business, and legal communities in Maine and beyond.

“Too often, everybody gets siloed in their departments and schools,” says Andrew Kaufman, professor of practice and consultant to Maine Law Dean Leigh Saufley. “It often doesn’t occur to the law faculty to talk to the business faculty or the business faculty to talk to the engineering faculty. What the Maine Center is doing – and what adds tremendously to its value – is creating an atmosphere where effective collaboration across lines can occur. They’re getting people to talk to each other, and

from these conversations, very constructive work can happen.”

These kinds of cross-disciplinary endeavors are critically important for the times we’re living in, says Greg Powell, chairman of the Harold Alfond Foundation, which last fall earmarked \$55 million for the Maine Center as part of its \$240 million investment in the University of Maine System.

“What the Maine Center is facilitating with the Law School and other System schools is an exciting – and necessary – part of the University System’s role in promoting a prosperous future for Maine. The Alfond investment is meant to put wind in the System’s sails,” he says. “Binary education is of limited relevance in the modern economy. What is really important is multidimensional education that allows students to draw from different disciplines to understand the context of real problems and use their creativity to solve them.”

Maine Law is involved in numerous Maine Center-driven collaborations, including the following.

Understanding the COVID-19 Pandemic: Resilience & Recovery

In June 2020, the Maine Center teamed up with the Muskie School of Public Service to offer a free interdisciplinary webinar series about the COVID-19 pandemic. Designed and hosted by the Muskie School’s director, Firooza Pavri, the series explored the impact of the pandemic on all facets of life – and ways to recover from it. The series was so popular that it was continued in the fall for an 11-session series that drew 460 enrolled participants. Lecturers were Maine Law and other System faculty

and guests in the fields of public health, policy, law, social work, and business, ranging from Dr. Nirav Shah, director of the Maine Centers for Disease Control, to Maine Law Refugee and Human Rights Clinical Professor Anna R. Welch.

Acquisition Transactions: Execution and Risk Management – Legal and Business Perspectives

Kaufman spent a great deal of time in 2020 working remotely with Jason Harkins, associate dean and associate professor of management for the University of Maine Business School, to hammer out a new course. He and Harkins are co-teaching a cohort that includes both law and M.B.A. students.

“We’re really excited about this because we’ve long wrestled with how to make the teaching and learning for business and law students together more effective,” says Kaufman. “What we’ve invariably found is that it’s very difficult for a law student to paratroop into a business school course, particularly an upper-level course, because the courses presume an understanding of foundational principles that law students often lack. And vice versa.”

Kaufman says the new collaborative course will “provide valuable skill development for both law and graduate business students by giving each exposure to how their colleague looks at, thinks about, and analyzes situations. We’ll use a hypothetical business acquisition transaction – Company A is going to buy Company B – and go through the steps you go through as a lawyer or a business executive working together – because that’s what happens in real life.”

Converting the Certificate in Compliance program to an entirely online format

Kaufman also directs Maine Law’s popular Certificate in Compliance program for compliance professionals seeking to develop and enhance their skills and others looking to enter the field. The program had been moving toward an online delivery format to make it more accessible, and COVID-19 hastened those plans. As of this semester, it’s entirely online.

The Certificate in Compliance is a non-J.D. program that was launched by Maine Law in 2017 to meet a community need, Kaufman explains. The Compli-

Professor Kaufman worked with Ross Hickey '01, USM’s assistant provost for research integrity and MeRTEC’s director, to develop the Certificate in Compliance program. The program is now available fully online.



ance Certificate program has the enthusiastic support of numerous businesses and institutions, including Avangrid, Unum, USM’s Center for Technology and Enhanced Learning, MeRTEC, Maine Medical Center Research Institute, and WEX – all of which have a need for skilled compliance officers.

Kaufman and Ross Hickey '01, USM’s assistant provost for research integrity and MeRTEC’s director, developed the program. Kaufman notes that the Maine Center has been instrumental in moving it online and is providing much-appreciated financial backing, including a scholarship for a participant who had been a lawyer in Rwanda before immigrating to Maine. She found the compliance field would make use of her skills, and she was hired for a compliance job with a Portland financial services firm, an achievement she credits to her program participation.

An important feature of the program has been its networking component, and the online courses include live virtual sessions that allow people to interact and share their experiences.

Giving more weight to outside experience

Collaborations facilitated by the Maine Center have also led to an increase in internship and externship opportunities for law students.

In the summer of 2020, the Maine Center funded a pilot cohort of 23 students for its new Graduate Internship Program that provides students focused on its disciplines – law, business, policy, and public health – with paid work experience in settings ranging from

BP’s Oysters to E2Tech to the Arctic Futures Institute.

Matthew Fortin, a 2L at Maine Law, participated in the cohort through a self-guided project with an attorney mentor and says he appreciates the opportunity it gave him to familiarize himself with the legislative process and network with other System interns. He looked into creating a bill to require licensing for home contractors in Maine, an effort that has failed numerous times in the state Legislature. Although the proposal has not yet been accepted by the Legislature – in part because of the Legislature’s early spring adjournment in 2020 – Fortin gained valuable experience by researching related bill attempt histories, testimony, public hearings, and work sessions and obtaining an enlightening political perspective from current lawmakers, including two of his Maine Law classmates who serve in the Maine Legislature.

Future Projects

The Maine Center has its eye on future collaborations that could lead to micro-credentialing across campuses, new course offerings, a new degree program, and even the potential of a new building.

“The expertise, creativity, and willingness to collaborate of Maine Law faculty and staff have been instrumental in delivering the interdisciplinary programming that has enabled the Maine Center to meet the early stage goals of the Harold Alfond Foundation grant,” says Maine Center Ventures CEO Terry Sutton. “We look forward to continuing this partnership with Maine Law to advance these important initiatives for Maine’s future.”

For information on supporting Maine Law and the University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center, please contact Maine Law’s Office of Advancement at 207.780.4521 or lawalum@maine.edu.



Maine Law's Pandemic Pivot

By Patty McCarthy

Keeping Maine Law successfully – and safely – running through the twists and turns of COVID-19 has taken an enormous amount of cooperation, training, work, creativity, and, perhaps most of all, patience.

These components were sorely needed in the pandemic's early days as academic leaders tried to gauge the best courses of action for their schools, says Vice Dean Dmitry Bam, who was interim dean at the time.

A decision on whether to transition from in-person education to entirely online learning had to be made fast. Bam and other University of Maine System leaders met in Orono on March 11th, a week before spring break to review the multitude of considerations.

"There were so many questions," says Bam. "Would going online be an overreaction? Would it be safe to stay open? At that point, we didn't really understand the threat."

Law schools faced a complicating restriction: the American Bar Association (ABA) prohibited online learning, mostly because of the nature of how law students are educated, Bam explains. "So much of what we do is practical. We're trying to get students to think on their feet, to react to each other. We've come to see this year that this can all happen really well online,



“We did a lot of surveys to see what students needed. Did they have hotspots? Computers? Cell phones? Printers? – and we provided support to students who needed it. And then training.”

– Vice Dean Dmitry Bam

but at the time we just didn't know.” (The ABA later loosened its rules in light of COVID-19.)

With information about the pandemic's scope starting to flood news channels and many schools around the country closing their buildings, the question shifted from “should we” to “how.” A decision was made to prepare for online classes when the students returned from spring break on March 23rd.

“Spring break was historically a week to relax a bit and catch up on scholarship and committee work, but that's when the faculty and staff hunkered down to figure out how to handle all this,” says Bam.

A critical jump start

Fortuitously, Director of Technology Michelene Decrow and Technology Coordinator Kerry Wyler had been preparing for weeks for what felt to them like an inevitability.

“I was looking at the tools the faculty would need to teach remotely and how we'd get everyone trained,” Decrow says. The school already had an enterprise license for Zoom, but no one regularly used the tool. So Decrow and Wyler got to work, giving themselves a two-week crash course in Zoom.

Zoom meeting links were set up for every course, about 40,



Maine Law students on the Law School lawn during Orientation.

“What I’m taking away is that the things that are strong about Maine Law – the commitment of the entire faculty to teaching, the commitment of the students to learning and public service – which is what brought most of them to law school in the first place – can happen independent of us all being in the same room together.”

– Professor Deirdre Smith '94

and then came the heavy lifting – training all full-time and adjunct faculty members. Decrow and Bam heap praise on Wyler, who rose to the occasion “phenomenally,” working long hours seven days a week for many weeks to ensure that everyone felt Zoom-proficient.

Next was getting the school’s 250 students up and running. “We did a lot of surveys to see what students needed,” Bam says. “Did they have hotspots? Computers? Cell phones? Printers? – and we provided support to students who needed it. And then training.”

Bam – and new Dean Leigh Saufley who came aboard in April 2020 – had countless other questions to field. Realizing, as Bam puts it, that “a lack of personal contact is a huge loss,” they encouraged use of the University of Southern Maine’s mental health services and offered Law on the Lawn and other masked and socially distanced outdoor events, as well as fun activities like online Trivia Nights.

“We just made it work with a lot of great teamwork,” says Bam, adding that he appreciates the community of law school deans around the country who shared concerns and ideas.

Prepping for a hybrid fall

Summer 2020 was spent planning for a fall hybrid opening. Staff and faculty stayed in regular communication with students via email and the school’s internal portal to make sure they had what was needed to start the new academic year.

“Even going into the summer, there was some hope that things would go back to normal,” says Nicole Vinal, assistant dean for finance and administration. “But we had a ways to go. We put together a Fall Planning Task Force to plan Orientation and talk about best practices for teaching remotely. We also switched Learning Management Systems, so we brought in a designer to help faculty set up their courses in this new system.”

Technology upgrades were needed for faculty to be able to teach the approximately 20 percent of students who opted to be in the physical classrooms at the Law School while also having their classes broadcast live via Zoom for all others. The UMaine System happened to have done some necessary prep work pre-COVID-19 and funded purchases and implementation of computers, microphones, webcams, and other technology, with help from federal emergency dollars.

Vinal says figuring out how to safely have people in the building meant partnering with the University of Southern Maine, which owns and maintains the building, to work out cleaning and other schedules. Maine Law worked with the UMaine System and other campuses to develop its own COVID-19 testing plan, and to procure its own supply of face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer.

Arrangements ranged from adding stickers and signs around the building to indicate where chairs and people belong to meet safe distancing protocols, to upgrad-

ing HVAC filtering systems and moving excess furniture to the basement.

After hundreds of hours of preparation, Maine Law was ready for students to return (in small, socially-distanced groups) this past fall. Faculty, staff, and students who are on campus follow an asymptomatic COVID-19 testing protocol in which a random group is tested weekly. There is an “Amplified” testing protocol for anyone with higher risk of contracting COVID-19 – including Clinic students working in the community and courts.

The Clinic’s unique pandemic challenges

Kelsey Lee, a 3L student attorney in Maine Law’s Refugee and Human Rights Clinic, says it’s been hard dealing with isolation and not being able to just tap a colleague on the shoulder to instantly get feedback. But she says it’s really difficult seeing the effects on vulnerable clients of COVID-19-imposed limits like court closings and jails cutting off visitation.

Still, there are also critical lessons to take away from 2020, too, Lee says. “I’ve learned that if there is something preventing you from doing the work you intend to do, there’s a way around it. There’s often little excuse in saying you can’t. You can figure it out.”

Meeting a client weekly in a Portland park during warmer months, masked and at a distance, had unexpected benefits, Lee says, including reinforcing her belief

that client-lawyer relationships should be free of power dynamics sometimes present when meeting in a law office.

Lee says she has felt “incredible support” from professors during the pandemic. And that feeling is mutual, says Professor Deirdre Smith, associate dean for experiential education and managing director of the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic. She calls her Clinic students “downright heroic” for how they have adapted under duress.

“The Clinic could not simply pivot 100 percent to being fully remote because of the nature of the work we do,” Smith says, noting that lawyers, including student attorneys, were considered essential workers through even the strictest lockdowns last spring. With “no playbook or clear paths to solutions,” students figured out how to excel at remotely representing clients for contested evidentiary hearings, mediations, negotiations, judicial conferences, and more, and still handled in-person protection from abuse and juvenile detention cases.

“Some of the Clinic’s top-priority cases are also the judicial branch’s top-priority cases, so that’s meant our students are going into courthouses a lot more than other attorneys are,” Smith explains. When COVID-19 restrictions eased as the Clinic’s Summer Intern Program started, Clinic student attorneys eagerly welcomed the chance to do more in-person representation. In court, earbuds and

cell phones (courts have made exceptions to allow phones) have taken the place of a professor sitting alongside a student and whispering guidance in their ear or passing a note.

Smith says students have learned new ways of using their brains and preparing to be great lawyers. “They’re getting a crash course in creative problem solving. And that’s what lawyers do when they are at their best. I’ve been incredibly impressed with how they’ve managed and navigated even mundane things like getting a client’s signature or working with an interpreter when everyone’s remote.”

Forging ahead ... and counting positives

Everything will seem so easy when COVID-19 is a memory, Smith says, but she’s not alone in asserting that some skills and efficiencies that Maine Law students and faculty – and the greater community – have come to appreciate shouldn’t go away.

“Do we really need to have everyone drive down to the courthouse for a 15-minute check-in conference? There may be recognition that we could get through a docket very efficiently if we do some of these remotely. Mediations can work ideally via Zoom, particularly if there’s a very difficult dynamic with a history of domestic violence. Being able to use technology for marking up documents, for electronic signatures, for transmitting documents saves time and paper. I hope those things will continue.”

Being better prepared is another good takeaway, adds Vinal. “We have meetings every single day about COVID-19 and planning for any scenario, so now we have a bunch of contingency plans for when and if *anything* happens.”

Smith says she has deeply appreciated, through all the stress, that she works in a place full of good, resilient, and determined people.

“What I’m taking away is that the things that are strong about Maine Law – the commitment of the entire faculty to teaching, the commitment of the students to learning and public service – which is what brought most of them to law school in the first place – can happen independent of us all being in the same room together. That’s really what’s held us together since March.”



Maine Law students on a pre-Orientation kayak trip to Fort Gorges.

Krystal Williams completing her thru-hike on the Appalachian Trail in 2011. Before Maine Law won her over, the state itself had already worked its magic after her hike. “I was the typical thru-hiker,” she says, “getting to the Katahdin sign with tears streaming down my face.”





Krystal Williams '17 and The Alpha Legal Foundation

By Liz Woodbury

When she made the decision to attend Maine Law, Krystal Williams, Class of 2017, was inclined to think of law school in terms of “checking off one more box” along the course of her flourishing corporate career path. Williams was a “nontraditional student,” a description she chuckles at but concurs with. “I was nontraditional in terms of my age, but especially my experience,” she says. She had already worked for more than a decade as a senior manager at a Fortune 500 company, where she was encouraged by the senior in-house counsel to pursue a law degree. He was impressed by her attention to detail, as well as the extra work she shouldered to decipher the varying state regulations that directly affected her company. Williams was also motivated by her own determination to fully understand the underlying legal concepts in her field. “I don’t like not knowing stuff!” she says.

It wasn’t a surprise to Williams to find herself thriving on the academic rigors and challenges of law school, as she had at Dartmouth’s Tuck School of Business, where she received her M.B.A. What did amaze her was how she came to feel about the law itself. “I didn’t expect to love the law – and to especially love what it can enable in society in a positive way.”

Before Maine Law won her over, the state itself had already worked its magic. Williams, who grew up in the South and spent eight years in the Midwest, is a world traveler who also served a Peace Corps stint in the Dominican Republic. But it was Maine she fell for, after completing a thru-hike on the Appalachian Trail in 2011. “I was the typical thru-hiker,” she says, “getting to the Katahdin sign with tears streaming down my face.”

The 2,000 mile hike was an enormous personal challenge: “It was a dream I had as a freshman in college, but it took me 19 years to gather the courage to try.” The experience left her with a profound sense of accomplishment and an entirely new kind of confidence, not to mention an affection for the state. “I left to go back to my job in Illinois being absolutely in love with Maine,” she says. She checked, “almost on a whim,” to see whether Maine had a law school.

Conversations with Maine Law professors cemented Williams’s certainty that the school would offer a solid legal education. “I was impressed with how knowledgeable they were about the law. I also felt confident I would be able to bring who I really am to the table and that I wouldn’t

I had a lot of my fellow students of color coming to me to talk through these issues.” She co-founded the Multicultural Law Society, which focuses on issues that affect underrepresented ethnic groups and provides a forum for the Law School community to address racial inequities in the law. After her first year of legal practice, Williams found herself wondering how she could forge these kinds of connections with other attorneys of color in Maine, and in 2019 she began pulling together resources that could help her achieve this goal.

In January of 2020, Williams officially launched The Alpha Legal Foundation, an organization that sponsors programs and events “designed to equip traditionally underrepresented attorneys and aspiring at-

students of color a path to law school and providing examples of success in the legal profession. “If you don’t have lawyers in your family, you’re at an automatic disadvantage,” says Williams.

The Alpha Legal Foundation’s inaugural program was the three-part Legally Racist series, presented in conjunction with the Maine Humanities Council (MHC). Each online session features a guest panel and the first panel was moderated by the MHC’s Michele Hicks-Curry, an accomplished Black Navy veteran who is currently serving a two-year sentence at the Maine Correctional Center. The first session, held on September 24, had over 100 attendees and focused on language and the law. Williams describes it as “a powerful conversation that’s received very positive feedback.” The series, which explored the way laws and legal norms perpetuate systemic inequality, was available to current law students, recent graduates, attorneys, and members of Maine Bar Association.

While her long-term goals for The Alpha Legal Foundation include diversifying a notoriously white industry, creating a more equitable Bar, and increasing representation in positions of power in the state, for Williams, there’s something else as well: “Rarely, if ever, is a lawyer portrayed in the media as unintelligent. A law degree automatically confers a presumption of intelligence that isn’t always present, even if a person of color has another advanced degree.” This is an important element of her view that inspiring BIPOC high school and college students to consider a career in law is essential.

Williams comes from a large, close family, and she prioritizes them when balancing her busy environmental law practice and her work with The Alpha Legal Foundation. “You show up where you need to be for things that are important,” she says. Her many personal goals include returning to the Appalachian Trail. “This year is the tenth anniversary of my hike,” Williams says in amazement. “I want to experience that again, with the wisdom I have now – not just from hiking it once, but also the wisdom I’ve gotten from living life.”

Williams recently started a new endeavor with the launch of Providentia Group, a legal and business advisory firm that helps clients build a more equitable future. Learn more on their website: providentiagroup.com.



“I didn’t expect to love the law – and to especially love what it can enable in society in a positive way.”

be told that as a Black woman I had to be careful about how I talked.” Although she struggled initially with the choice between law schools, she says, “Once I gave myself permission to ask what would make me happy, the answer became so crystal clear.”

Williams had worked hard to succeed in the corporate world, overcoming a variety of obstacles along the way, but her experiences at Maine Law helped her begin to contextualize specific racist experiences she’d had at work. “2014 was the year Michael Brown was killed by police in Ferguson, Missouri,” she says. Processing his death and the varied reactions and conversations it spurred among her classmates and acquaintances led to a time she describes now as personally transformative. “That’s when I really started learning about implicit bias and putting my own experience in perspective,” says Williams. It was then that the seed of The Alpha Legal Foundation was planted.

“There were no existing ‘lawyers of color’ groups at Maine Law, and I found

torneys to navigate the existing legal power structures while engaging in authentic partnership with current legal leaders to remove unnecessary barriers to success.” While she was inspired by groups that focus on both women and Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) in the law, she didn’t find a clear example that was dedicated to engaging with both the legal and business communities. Williams considers Maine to be the perfect location for this kind of project. “The whole state is really a large town; you’re rarely more than two or three degrees of separation from anyone. I’ve found leaders to be very accessible.”

Williams describes three broad goals for The Alpha Legal Foundation, starting with a robust mentoring mechanism for practicing BIPOC attorneys in Maine. She is also focused on engaging the broader community around race, including the business and nonprofit worlds. Finally, she hopes to “reach back and take the hands of leaders in the next generation to help them move forward,” showing young

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Maine Law currently offers two certificate programs which are designed to further strengthen students' skills in a particular area of law. In this edition, we caught up with four current 3Ls who will receive these advanced certificates when they graduate in May in 2021.

Certificate in Information Privacy Law



AIMEE DODGE

Hometown: Jonesport, Maine

Undergrad: B.A., University of Maine

Pre-Maine Law: I worked in healthcare on both the clinical and administrative sides. This experience really sparked my interest in information privacy and risk management and compliance.

What is the best thing about Maine Law?

One of the best things about Maine Law is the community. I can't imagine not having the support of the faculty and staff. They all have a genuine interest in seeing you succeed in the area of law you're interested in. The certificate programs are just one of the ways that Maine Law shows their support. As a candidate for the Information Privacy Certificate, I can say that the faculty, staff, and students involved in the program are a community unto themselves. We support and assist each other with research and networking and celebrate when one of us finds success.

If you could have given your 1L self some advice, what would it have been?

Breathe. Take your time. It's a marathon, not a sprint. Remember that Maine Law wants you to succeed, and there are resources and support to help you do just that. Don't be afraid to ask.

What has been your favorite social-distancing activity?

Getting in touch with my inner interior design goddess. I've painted, rearranged, and refurbished, one room at a time.

What have you liked about this new normal for law school?

I've really enjoyed being able to slow my mornings down, now that I don't have to run out the door to make class. I can read about the latest information privacy developments and sip coffee.

What are your plans for after Maine Law?

I really want to get involved with information privacy and data protection. It would be a privilege to work alongside those who are really forging ahead in the areas of artificial intelligence and data governance. These are areas that will grow and impact us all.



NATHAN MOORE

Hometown: Austin, Texas

Undergrad: B.S./B.A., Texas State University

Grad: M.A., Texas State University

Pre-Maine Law: Academic Advisor and Graduate Lecturer, Texas State University

What is the best thing about Maine Law?

There are so many great things about Maine Law it's hard to pick just one. If I had to pick one, it would be the privacy program because it prepares students to be leaders in the industry as soon as they graduate. Taking the required classes, earning a CIPP, and having privacy-related work experience before graduating is invaluable! Outside of the curriculum, I would say the student body is the best part of Maine Law. Everyone is so friendly and helpful, and your classmates really do want to see you succeed.

If you could have given your 1L self some advice, what would it have been?

Don't take everything quite so seriously. While grades are always important, so is mental health. I would tell my 1L self not to dwell so much on things I did wrong, but to learn from them, adapt, and move on.

What has been your favorite social-distancing activity?

Using Zoom I play Dungeons and Dragons with my friends in Texas and Louisiana every other week. I also enjoy taking our golden retriever for hikes at the Fore River Sanctuary and Mackworth Island.

What have you liked about this new normal for law school?

The new normal has its benefits because it gives students a chance to do things outside of what they could normally do. This semester I am participating in a Privacy Law Moot Court competition hosted by the University of Helsinki. Since it's all online, travel isn't a concern!

What are your plans for after Maine Law?

I will be returning to Austin to work in the Data Protection and Privacy Practice at Ernst & Young (EY).

Certificate in Environmental and Oceans Law



DEANNA HOUSE

Hometown: Lee, Maine

Undergrad: B.A., University of Maine

Grad: M.A. in English, C.A.S., University of Maine

Pre-Maine Law: Director of Administrative Services at House in the Woods Military & Family Retreat, Director of the Sgt. Joel A. House Summer Camp Fund, High School Teacher

What is the best thing about Maine Law?

My classmates. They are always so tenacious when participating in class, yet there's a genuine feeling of cohesiveness between us that has developed over these past three years. I truly admire them and look forward to seeing who they become.

If you could have given your 1L self some advice, what would it have been?

Laugh more. If you can't find someone to laugh with, then laugh at yourself. Laugh like it's your secret weapon against stress and worry.

What has been your favorite social-distancing activity?

I started sea glass hunting just before the pandemic and have enjoyed combing Maine's beaches ever since.

What have you liked about this new normal for law school?

My home is four hours away. Virtual instruction lets me be home.

What are your plans for after Maine Law?

I want to continue working for veterans and kids.



NICHOLAS JANZEN

Hometown: New Orleans, Louisiana

Undergrad: B.A., University of Alabama

Pre-Maine Law: Reported on energy and environmental issues for public radio stations in Louisiana and Indiana

What is the best thing about Maine Law?

The best thing about Maine Law is the wonderful community I've found. Even though I'm not from New England, I've been able to quickly develop a professional network with the help of the school's very knowledgeable faculty and staff. My classmates are supportive, caring, and extremely talented. I've met people here who I will count as best friends for the rest of my life.

If you could have given your 1L self some advice, what would it have been?

Play the long game. It's easy to get overwhelmed in your 1L year because there are so many new concepts. Take them one by one. It's okay to do poorly on an assignment, flub a cold call, or have a bad day. That's nothing to be anxious about. The most important work comes at the end of the semester during final exams. And the best way to prepare for exams is to develop a work schedule at the beginning of the semester and stick with it. Map out the hours each week that you will spend reading for class and reviewing your notes. If you stick with that schedule and engage with the material throughout the semester, you'll be well prepared for exams, regardless of any setbacks you may have had on individual assignments along the way.

What has been your favorite social-distancing activity?

My favorite social-distancing activity has been anything that takes place outdoors. I've always liked outdoor activities, but I never realized how often my pre-pandemic socializing revolved around indoor spaces – a friend's apartment or a coffee shop, bar, or restaurant. Going for a hike or a paddle – even just hanging out in someone's backyard – has been a great way to see friends and enjoy New England's beautiful environment.

What have you liked about this new normal for law school?

I live an hour away from the Law School, so it is nice to have the option to attend classes, meetings, or lectures remotely. That said, I still attend classes in person fairly often. I find I'm less distracted that way, and it's nice to see my friends and professors, especially since this is my last year.

What are your plans for after Maine Law?

I will serve as a law clerk to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. When that one-year clerkship ends, I hope to stay in Maine and practice energy and environmental law.

FACULTY NOTES



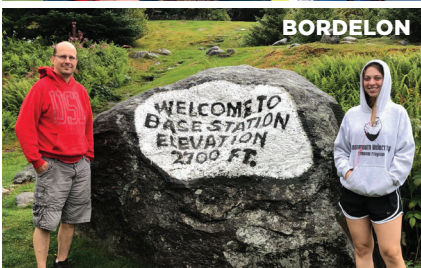
AREY



BEER



FEINBERG



BORDELON



BLOOMBERG



DULAC



BAM



GUFFIN

ANGELA AREY

PRESENTATION

■ *Creating Opportunities for Formative Assessment and Self-Evaluation in the Fall Semester* at the Annual Conference of the New England Consortium of Legal Writing Teachers (with Prof. Wolff)

PROFESSIONAL

■ Oversaw the Moot Court Program and coached three moot court competition teams

DMITRY BAM

PRESENTATION

■ 2019 Constitution Day Lecture at Maine Law (with Prof. Moffa)

PUBLICATION

■ Amicus brief for the Law Court in *Avangrid v. Secretary of State*

PROFESSIONAL

■ Supervised a project focusing on COVID-19 and civil rights (with Prof. Thaler)

COURTNEY BEER

PROFESSIONAL

■ Joined the Law School as an associate clinical professor and director of the Prisoner Assistance Clinic in January 2020

SCOTT BLOOMBERG

PROFESSIONAL

■ Joined the Law School as an associate professor in August 2020

PUBLICATION

■ *Democracy, Deference, and Compromise: Understanding and Reforming Campaign Finance Jurisprudence*, 53 LOY. L.A. L. REV. 895 (2020)

GREGORY BORDELON

PRESENTATIONS

■ *Developing Skills for Success in Law School* at the Second Annual Conference of the New York Association for Pre-Law Advising and Pedagogy (hosted by Cardozo Law School)

■ *AALS Hot Topic Program – The Class Divide: Academic and Practical Strategies for Current Law Students in Serious Financial Need* at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Law Schools

PROFESSIONAL

■ Served on the Test Design Committee of the National Conference of Bar Examiners' Testing Task Force

CHRISTINE I. DULAC

PROFESSIONAL

■ Elected Vice President/President Elect of the NELLCO Executive Committee

■ Chair of the Law Librarians of New England's Nominations Committee

■ Member of the ALLStAR Advisory Board, worked to develop new survey questions for inclusion in the U.S. News Law School Rankings survey

JESSICA FEINBERG

PUBLICATION

■ *Restructuring Rebuttal of the Marital Presumption for the Modern Era*, 104 MINN. L. REV. 243 (2019)

PRESENTATION

■ *After Marriage Equality: Dual Fatherhood for Married Male Same-Sex Couples* at the Feminist Legal Theory Program at Law and Society Annual Conference

PROFESSIONAL

■ Served on the Central Georgia Council on Family Violence

PETER J. GUFFIN

PUBLICATIONS

■ *Digital Court Records Access, Social Justice, and Judicial Balancing: What Judge Coffin Can Teach Us*, 72 ME. L. REV. 87 (2020)

■ *Privacy Law Perspectives* blog

PRESENTATION

■ *Information Security Program Basics*, CLE presentation at Practising Law Institute's Fundamentals of Privacy Law 2019 program

FACULTY NOTES

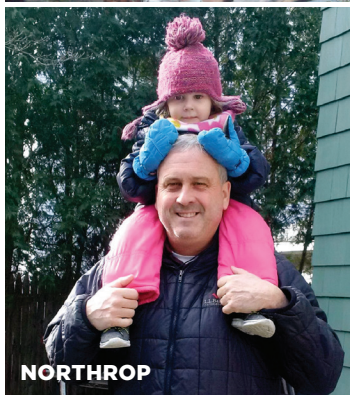
MAINE



NORCHI



LUPICA



NORTHROP



PITEGOTT



KAUFMAN

ANDREW KAUFMAN

PROFESSIONAL

- Director, Maine Law's Compliance Certificate Program
- Co-Supervisor, Maine Law/MeRTEC Small Business COVID-19 Support Initiative
- President and board chair of the Working Group on Legal Opinions Foundation

LOIS R. LUPICA

RESEARCH

- Co-Principal Investigator of Financial Distress Research Project and Affiliated Faculty with the Harvard Law School Access to Justice Lab and at the Princeton University Dignity + Debt Program Debt Collection Lab

PRESENTATIONS

- *Will legal design improve civil justice systems?* at the Legal Design VirtualTable
- *High Cognitive Loads and Legal Self-help Strategies* at LSC Technology & Innovation

JEFFREY A. MAINE

PUBLICATIONS

- *Attacking Innovation*, 99 B.U. L. REV. 1687 (2019) (with Prof. Nguyen)
- *Wealth Transfer Tax Planning After the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*, BYU L. REV. (forthcoming) (with Prof. Miller)
- Working on a new book, *Taxation of Intellectual Property: Law and Practice* (Practising Law Institute) (forthcoming) (with Prof. Nguyen)

ANTHONY MOFFA

PUBLICATIONS

- *Word Limited: An Empirical Analysis of the Relationship between the Length, Resiliency, and Impact of Environmental Regulations*, 20 NEV. L. J. 733 (2020)
- Amicus brief in *Vega v. Semple*, No. 18-3176-pr (2d Cir.)

PROFESSIONAL

- Founder and director, new Environmental and Oceans Law Certificate Program
- Coach, Moot Court Team in the Jeffrey G. Miller National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition

CHARLES H. NORCHI

PUBLICATIONS

- *Law as Strategy: Thinking Below the State in Afghanistan*, International Law Studies (Fall 2019)
- *An Arctic Treaty in an Age of Contagion?*, Journal of the North Atlantic and Arctic (Spring 2020)

PRESENTATIONS

- At the Arctic Circle Assembly, Iceland; Brown University; the Global Geneva Forum, Geneva, Switzerland; Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland; and the United States Naval War College

PROFESSIONAL

- National Science Foundation Grant: Worked on the University of Maine seven person team that was awarded a \$3 million NSF Arctic program grant to support students in science, law, and policy

CHRISTOPHER NORTHROP

PRESENTATIONS

- *Litigating Adolescent Development* at the New England Juvenile Defender Center's Annual Conference
- *Juvenile Justice: Past, Present, and Future (parts 1 and 2)*, The Greater Good Podcast, University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center and WMPG Radio, with Jill Ward and Jonathan Ruterbories '21

PROFESSIONAL

- National Juvenile Defender Center state assessment team investigating access to counsel and quality of representation in delinquency proceedings in Kansas and New Hampshire

PETER R. PITEGOTT

PRESENTATIONS

- *Community Development Finance and Economic Justice*, paper presentation and panel discussion at conference on "Facing Our Challenges: Rescuing Democracy..." (ClassCrits XII) at Western New England University School of Law
- *Building Community - Part 1, The Promise of Affordable Housing, and Part 2, The Housing Mismatch*, The Greater Good Podcast series, University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center and WMPG Radio (with Greg Payne, Nina Ciffolillo '21, and Carrie Wilshusen '07)

PROFESSIONAL

- Joined the Board of Directors of *Avesta Housing* and the Board of Trustees of the *Surf Point Foundation*



SMITH



ZILLMAN



WRIGGINS



WELCH



WOLFF



SCHINDLER



THALER



RUDOLPH

DUANE RUDOLPH

PUBLICATIONS

- *Of Moral Outrage in Judicial Opinions*, 26 WM. & MARY J. OF RACE, GENDER, AND SOC. JUST. (2020)
- *When Should Water Belong to the Public?*, 2019 MICH. STATE L. REV. 1389 (2019) (invited)

SARAH SCHINDLER

PUBLICATIONS

- *How the Law Fails Tenants (and Not Just During a Pandemic)*, 68 UCLA L. REV. DISCOURSE 146 (2020) (with Kellen Zale)
- *Pardoning Dogs*, _ NEVADA L.J. _ (forthcoming)
- Op-Ed, *Expanded outdoor dining must make room for public in public spaces* (Portland Press Herald, May 19, 2020)

PRESENTATION

- Panelist, *Zoning Reform Roundtable* at Equity and Effects on Disadvantaged Communities at Suffolk Law School

DEIRDRE M. SMITH

PROFESSIONAL

- Elected to American Law Institute
- Consultant to Maine Family Law Advisory Commission in developing its Report and Recommendations to Maine Legislature on Minor Guardianship and Adoption, which were enacted as P.L. 2019, Ch. 664
- Maine Judicial Branch Volunteer of the Year Award

PUBLICATION

- *Don't Let Maine Become a Rural Legal Desert*, Kennebec Journal (April 28, 2020)

JEFF THALER

PROFESSIONAL

- Fulbright Specialist creating and teaching an international environmental law and policy course at Duke Kunshan University in Kunshan, China

PUBLICATION

- *Remember the Past: What Can Governors Do When the 2nd COVID-19 Surge Comes?* _ MITCHELL HAMLINE L. REV. _ (forthcoming)

PRESENTATION

- *How to Navigate the New Adult Recreational Marijuana Regulations and Law* at the Maine State Bar Association

ANNA R. WELCH

PROFESSIONAL

- Traveled to Texas to volunteer at the southern border assisting asylum seekers forced to fight for asylum
- Coordinator of several local and national community outreach projects, including partnering with Jones Day Law Firm on the Laredo Project

PRESENTATIONS

- *The MDI Racial Equity Working Group* at Immigration Law in These Challenging Times
- Speaker, Plenary Session at the New England Clinicians' Conference, *Elevating Empathy in Legal Education*

SARA WOLFF

PRESENTATION

- *Creating Opportunities for Formative Assessment and Self-Evaluation in the Fall Semester* at the Annual Conference of the New England Consortium of Legal Writing Teachers (with Prof. Arey)

PUBLICATIONS

- *Uniform Maine Citations*, 2019-2020 edition, which has over 2,000 downloads to date

PROFESSIONAL

- Member, Maine Justice Action Group Pro Bono Committee

JENNIFER B. WRIGGINS

PRESENTATION

- *Torts, Race, and Racism* at Boston University Law School's Conference on Racial Bias, Disparities, and Oppression in the 1L Curriculum

PUBLICATIONS

- Op-Ed, *Democracy & Public Health, Maine's New Vaccination Law* (Bangor Daily News, July 2019)
- Feminist Rewriting of G.M.M. v. Kimpson, in FEMINIST TORT JUDGMENTS, edited by Lucinda Finley & Martha Chamallas, FEMINIST JUDGMENTS series. Cambridge University Press (forthcoming with Sara Cressey '18)

PROFESSIONAL

- Co-Director, Maine Law Information Privacy Program with Prof. Guffin

DONALD N. ZILLMAN

PUBLICATIONS

- Author and editor, *Energy Justice and Energy Law* (eds. del Guayo, Godden, Zillman, Gonzelez, and Montoya) (Oxford University Press 2020)
- Supplement of *Maine Tort Law* (Jack Simmons, Donald Zillman, and Robert Furbish) (forthcoming, Lexis-Nexis Press)

CLASS NOTES

CLASS OF 1959

Alan Levenson reports that after practicing labor and employment law for 50 years in Portland, he has changed his focus to developing commercial real estate in the Greater Portland area. He also moved for part of the year to Tucson, Arizona. While in Tucson he tutors 2nd graders in reading at the Oracle school, work that has led to the formation, with others, of a nonprofit 501(c)(3) Foundation that created a Pre-k program for 3 and 4 year olds at the school.

CLASS OF 1969

Craig Nelson reports that after the firm of Doyle & Nelson closed its practice early this year he accepted a partnership in the firm of Taylor, McCormack & Frame, based in Portland. He opened and now operates a satellite office of the firm in Augusta at 160 Capitol Street, Suite 1 and, after 51 years, he continues to thoroughly enjoy the practice of law. Craig adds "I hope that my classmates from the Maine Law Class of 1969, as well as all other Maine Law alums and those associated with Maine Law, stay safe and well during these very difficult and trying times we are all experiencing as the result of the pandemic."

CLASS OF 1971

Martha Holden shares, "I tell folks who are impressed by the prayers I craft that that is why Godde sent me to law school. Good enough reason. My primary articulable focus is fostering the Spark of Humanity network which is sure one way to save the world. May you all be well and willing to be transformed to engage these times."

CLASS OF 1974

Peter Rysman writes that he has lived in Key West, FL for the last 30 years. Last April, he retired from the private practice of law, mostly as a civil trial lawyer. He only practiced the last ten years. During part of that time he was also general counsel for the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. Prior to that he was a real estate developer in both Maine and the Florida Keys, mostly in association with Pritam Singh, and before that he operated an organic self-sustaining farm in North Yarmouth, Maine. His wife passed away three years ago; he has a daughter in Los Angeles and two adult children in Florida through his former wife. In October, he married Teresa Menendez, and through her he has a large Cuban descended family in Key West. Peter reports his health is still good, adding "I look forward to an active retirement, as we are prone to say, here in Paradise."

James E. Tierney reports that he continues to work as the director of the Attorney General Clinic at Harvard Law School where he is also a lecturer in law. He also continues to counsel incumbent attorneys general and their staffs on a wide variety of matters and is the director of www.StateAG.org.



CLASS OF 1976

Holly Elissa Bruno reports that her most recent book, *Happiness is Running Through the Streets to Find You; Translating Trauma's Harsh Legacy into Healing*, sold out immediately and is in its 2nd printing. The e-book was released on Amazon on 8/15/20. Her textbook, *Managing Legal Risks in Early Childhood Programs: Preventing Flare Ups from Turning into Law Suits* (Teachers College Press, 2012) is also a best seller. Holly Elissa returned to the Law School in 1978 after graduating in 1976 to serve as assistant dean with Dean Kinvin Wroth.

CLASS OF 1979

Charles Miller writes he lives in Scarborough and is an attorney at Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson. He is listed in the 11th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, and has been since 2005-2006. He is recognized for his work in real estate law.

CLASS OF 1980

Leigh Saufley retired from the bench and became the eighth dean of Maine Law.

CLASS OF 1981

Deborah Firestone reports she started working for Extegrity, Inc. in November 2018, after 9 years as executive director of the Maine Board of Bar Examiners (2009-2018). Extegrity provides Exam4 laptop software to applicants taking the bar exam in 9 states, and to law students at 1/3 of all U.S. law schools (including Maine Law). She has also been the president and executive editor of *Maine Lawyers Review* since 1993.

CLASS OF 1984

Anne Jordan writes she has been elected vice president of the National Criminal Justice Association, a non-profit, nonpartisan association dedicated to assisting criminal justice agencies in the development and implementation of effective criminal justice policy. Members represent all facets of the criminal and juvenile justice community, including law enforcement, corrections, prosecution, defense, courts, victim and witness services, academics, and elected officials. NCJA promotes the development of justice systems in states, tribal nations, and units of local government that enhance public safety; prevent and reduce the harmful effects of criminal and delinquent behavior on victims, individuals, and communities; and adjudicates defendants and sanctions them in a fair and just manner.

CLASS OF 1986

Shari Broder writes that in addition to being an arbitrator and mediator, she has a health coaching practice through which she helps people ditch dieting, make peace with food and eating, and lose weight in a healthy, sustainable way. She adds "I'm celebrating the fact that my podcast, the Weight Loss for Foodies podcast, hit a quarter of a million downloads last week! To reach even more people, I recently launched the Weight Loss for Foodies YouTube channel."

Alice N. Persons shares she recently joined the board of directors of the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland.

CLASS OF 1988

Jane Potter writes she is still working as a patent attorney and has also been writing novels, adding "last winter I had a book reading" at the Southwest Harbor Library (pre-COVID-19) with a broken arm. Further book readings are on hold until people can gather safely again." The book for the reading was *Margaret's Mentor*. The story is based in Portland, Maine and in Scotland, and involves two attorneys who admire Dr. Samuel Johnson. *Margaret's Mentor* is the first of a trilogy, and the second and third books in the trilogy will be available this fall. Jane notes that she usually spends May-September with family in Scotland, but this summer she stayed in Maine due to the pandemic.

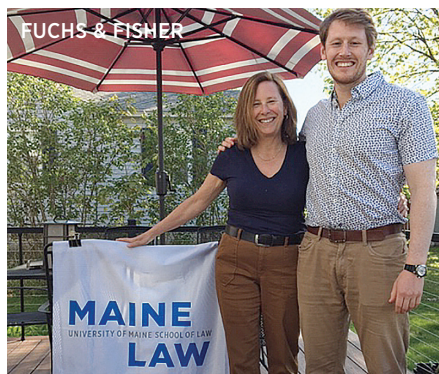


CLASS OF 1990

Deborah Fauver writes "the June reunion cancellation was sad for me, as I was looking forward to reconnecting. I have been steadily cutting back at work, and hope to be fully retired by July of 2021. This year has been busy on another front, as I am the moderator for Conway, NH. In May, we held a "drive thru" town election at the town garage, and we are now planning the September state primary and the November presidential election with all the COVID-19 challenges. Wish me luck with all the details, and here's hoping for an in-person class gathering in 2021!"

Cornelia Fuchs reports she proudly welcomed her son, **Karl J. Fisher**, Class of 2020, to the Maine Law Alumni Community. Karl will join the Law Department as an associate in the Office of Corporation

Counsel of the City of New York after taking the Bar Exam this fall. Cornelia is a partner at Monaghan Leahy, LLP in Portland, with an active family law practice.



CLASS OF 1991

Nancy Savage Marcus writes she joined Curtis Thaxter in Portland in January 2020, after two years working with David Perkins at Perkins, P.A. She is practicing with the firm's real estate and corporate groups. She is pleased to be working with classmate Jim Costello '91 again.

CLASS OF 1992

Laura M. O'Hanlon reports she was promoted from assistant to deputy general counsel at Bath Iron Works Corporation, where she continues to enjoy working with Jon A. Fitzgerald '95, general counsel, and Seth V. Fairbanks '00, assistant general counsel. She has been invited to collaborate with Nancy A. Wanderer '90, and Professor Peter J. Guffin on an upcoming *Res Ipsa* column for the *Maine Bar Journal*.

William Milliken writes he was elected president of the Maine Auctioneers Association in February 2020. An attorney and licensed auctioneer, he is co-owner of the fine art auction house Barridoff Galleries in South Portland, Maine. His goals as president include furthering the association's mission of improving professionalism in the auction industry and promoting the auction method of marketing. Specifically, he'd like to ensure that the auction industry remains relevant in today's changing times. "The auction industry, like everything else in our daily lives and businesses, has changed dramatically even since the 1990s with the advent of the internet, smartphones, and the gig economy. It is vital that Maine auctions and auctioneers keep pace with the times to continue to properly perform their duties and provide top notch service to the consuming public." He believes this is no more important than now with social distancing and staying in place, as the auction industry has already made great strides in conducting business online and remotely with the required infrastructure to hold remote or simulcast auctions mostly already existing and in use. The term of president is for one year, with no limitation on the number of terms a member can serve. Milliken replaces the previous president,

Ruth Lind of Moxie Auctions LLC, who is stepping down after over three years of serving as president. The Maine Auctioneers Association has over 40 members.

Steven Saunders reports that in 2018, after 21 years at Sunstein in Boston, he led a team of 10 IP attorneys, paralegals, and assistants in a move to Nutter McClennen & Fish in Boston, the firm established by Louis Brandeis over 140 years ago. He has been the chair of their Intellectual Property Department since his arrival. On the same day as his arrival at Nutter, he started his position as adjunct faculty at Boston University.

CLASS OF 1994

Tina Farrenkopf writes that she is the executive director of the National Indian Youth Council, Inc. headquartered in Albuquerque, NM. She was recently appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Labor, Eugene Scalia, to the national Native American Employment and Training Council, an advisory council to the Secretary. She resides in sunny Rio Rancho, NM with her partner, Paul Watkins, and her two children, Tessa and Tanner.

John Howland reports he is living in Western Mass and working as the president of Greenfield Savings Bank. He enjoyed attending the virtual class reunion, saying "the virtual reunion this spring was awesome – great to see so many people who were briefly so close and then suddenly vanished from our lives. What a great group of human beings!" He adds that COVID-19 has not been a major issue in the counties his bank serves, but that they have prepared for the worst and are thankful that it has not been as tough as it has been in more populous areas of the world. He adds "although I don't practice law, I see the benefits of my education every day. Proud to be a member of the Maine Law Class of '94!"

CLASS OF 1996

Jodi Nofsinger was recognized this summer as a distinguished lawyer in the category "Litigation: Medical Malpractice & Insurance – Maine" by Chambers USA. Jodi is an attorney at Berman & Simmons, representing plaintiffs in medical malpractice and wrongful death claims.

CLASS OF 1997

Martin C. Womer reports he is an elder law attorney based in Kennebunk at Maine Center for Elder Law, a practice of Perkins Thompson, P.A. In 2007, he founded the Maine Center for Elder Law, LLC, which merged with Perkins Thompson, P.A. in September 2019. Marty received his B.A. degree *cum laude* from Colby College (1975), majoring in chemistry, and his J.D. from the University of Maine School of Law (1997). He began his career as a research chemist, then later worked in real estate and land conservation, and chaired the Rockport, Maine planning board and comprehensive plan committee. After attending law school

in his early 40s, Marty worked as a senior planner at the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission, and then entered private practice of law. Taking care of his mother after the death of his father exposed him to elder law, which has been his focus since 2002. Marty has served several times as the chair or co-chair of the Elder Law Section of the Maine State Bar Association, for which he has taught numerous seminars since 2003. For eight years, he taught the legal-technical portions of ElderCounsel, LLC intensive three-day course for attorneys, Elder Law Immersion and Practice Building Camp. He is active in the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, which has published two of his articles in NAELA News. He has served on the faculty of regional and national elder law conferences, and has taught seminars for attorneys and related professionals hosted by continuing education companies. Marty is accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs (Veterans Administration).

CLASS OF 1998

Tera Pare writes "my world has proven busier than ever, in my position as manager of policy and compliance at Maine CDC, in light of the COVID-19 outbreak."

CLASS OF 1999

Heather Fine joined Tanenbaum Keale LLP as a partner in its Pennsylvania office. Heather is an experienced litigator who focuses her practice on complex product liability and mass tort defense.

She represents automotive manufacturers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, regional product manufacturers, food service retailers, and retail corporations on a local, national, and international level.



CLASS OF 2001

Matthew Hayden writes he left his current job as chief assistant district attorney for Schuyler County, NY, and took on a new job as of January 1, 2020. In November 2019, the citizens of Schuyler voted Matthew in as the next county judge. It is a "three-hat" judgeship, which means he will be overseeing County Court (criminal/civil), Family Court, and Surrogate's Court. It was a 4 person race, and Matthew overcame an 18% political party voter registration deficit, and bested the nearest competitor by 16%. (43.3% / 27.3% / 14.7% / 14.6%)

CLASS OF 2002

A.J. Hungerford announces the pandemic birth of his son in July: Preston James Hawk Hungerford (who joins A.J.'s three daughters, two born during his time in law school). Preston has already taken an interest in the law, especially negotiating verbal contracts with his parents.

Mikell Reed Carroll is a 2020 recipient of the Secretary of State Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad (SOSA) for her work with Refugee Aid Serbia, raising over \$10,000 in in-kind and cash donations to assist refugees in the Balkans. This is the 30th anniversary of the SOSA award, started by Secretary of State James Baker.

CLASS OF 2004

Wendy Alley shares she had a solo practice in Yarmouth, Maine, specializing in elder law and advocacy in 2006-2007. She moved to New Hampshire and was very active in political strategy, election law, and Democratic politics, including chairing the Dover NH Democrats. She is now retired from practice and lives in Wells, Maine.

CLASS OF 2005

Kate Moore writes she is still living in NYC and practicing in Fort Lee, NJ. She feels fortunate to have been able to work through the pandemic; a lot of Zoom conferences with clients and the courts. She shares her family is healthy and happy in Durham and Milford, NH. So far, so good. She sends thoughts to all alumni.

Uma Outka says she still misses Maine after all these years and loves staying in touch with Maine Law friends and visiting whenever she can. Uma is in her 10th year on the faculty at the University of Kansas School of Law in Lawrence, KS, where she lives with her family and teaches Environmental Law, Energy Law, Property, and Environmental Justice. She is now in her second year serving as the law school's associate dean for faculty. She also serves on the board of the Climate + Energy Project, a Kansas-based non-profit that advocates for affordable clean energy and is a member scholar of the Center for Progressive Reform.

CLASS OF 2006

Susan Faunce joined the board of the Maine Justice Foundation. Susan has also been elected as a Revitalization Governor from Maine for the American Association for Justice (AAJ) Board of Governors. This position is reserved for only one lawyer in each state and Susan will serve a two-year term. She takes the place of outgoing Revitalization Governor and Berman & Simmons colleague Michael Bigos '03. Susan was also recently recognized as a distinguished lawyer in the category "Litigation: Medical Malpractice & Insurance - Maine" by Chambers USA, who also noted Susan as "Up and Coming" for her medical malpractice litigation expertise. She currently leads Berman & Simmons mass tort practice.

CLASS OF 2007

Rebecca Hershey participated on a panel entitled "Creating an Organizational Culture that Values Inclusive Leadership" at the Global Inclusion Online Forum in September. She also reports that she has been the director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion at the Human Rights Campaign for a little over a year now.

CLASS OF 2008

Caileen Kateri Gamache was named partner at Norton Rose Fulbright. Kat is an accomplished energy lawyer based in Norton Rose Fulbright's Washington, D.C. office who is an integral member of their renowned projects team.



CLASS OF 2010

S. Warren Heaton, Jr. reports that he is running for California State Senate.

CLASS OF 2012

Ben Deninger is an associate in the construction practice group of the newly merged

Troutman Pepper LLP and sits in the firm's Washington, D.C. office. He and his wife Katie welcomed twin boys - Hank and Jackson - in September 2020.



CLASS OF 2014

Megan Adams writes "I'd like to thank everyone who reached out to me over the fire season in Australia. I'm sorry that I still haven't had a chance to respond to everyone. It was wild. My husband and I were less than half a mile from one fire that burned through a bog for over 200 days, and then fire broke out in the nature preserve in front of our house the second week of November (see picture). We evacuated twice and welcomed our baby girl, Madeline, on November 18. Things have settled down as much as they can, and we are forever grateful to the volunteer firefighters over here for saving our home.

I have since opened up my own law firm in New South Wales and work part-time for Incitec Pivot Limited (an ASX 200 company) in their Australian Employee Relations Department.

We have been lucky with the pandemic

so far, as our region got it under control relatively quickly and hasn't had community transmission in over 4 months as I write this. We have to maintain social distancing, but businesses are open and we're doing okay. We were going to try to come back for my family's annual Independence Day reunion, but all international flights are suspended and we need a permit to leave the country. We've been told that the major carriers hope to have international flights up and running again around July 2021, so we're hoping to see everyone as soon as we can after flights resume!"

Dave Faherty is happy to share that he and his wife moved back to Chicago in September 2019. He is working at the National Immigrant Justice Center as a staff attorney on the Detention Project, representing immigrants in ICE detention.

Kate Power reports that she and fellow alumna, Liana James '14, are both assistant county attorneys in Boulder, Colorado. They were friends and study buddies in school, and it is so fun that they are now in the same office (although that office is fully remote, for the time being).

CLASS OF 2015

Jenna Burt-Weeks and family moved to the Athens, Georgia area in June of 2019. The move and a career transition, from attorney to financial advisor with Raymond James, have been both a welcome change and an exciting new challenge.

After five excellent years with Bernstein Shur, **Ari Solotoff** recently launched his own practice, Solotoff Law Group, PLLC, an independent entertainment and intellectual property law firm based in Portland, Maine. The firm offers a range of transactional legal services for businesses, nonprofits, and individual talent working in music, film, TV, literary publishing, digital media, theatre, and the performing arts. He was also recently elected as chair of the Theatre and Performing Arts Division of the American Bar Association's Forum on Entertainment and Sports Industries. Most notably, he and his spouse welcomed their second child this past year, Jacob Richard Solotoff (1), who joins brother William Solotoff (8). Ari sends warm regards to classmates, near and far.

CLASS OF 2016

Elizabeth Elsbach shares she has just celebrated one year with the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals in Albuquerque, NM as an attorney advisor. She adds, "over the 4th of July weekend, Don Zillman (former professor and co-author) and I met up in Santa Fe for a socially distanced 5k. Currently, I am working on a chapter for a textbook on American diplomacy for the University of Virginia. My chapter focuses on WWI."

Tom Fales reports that he was selected to participate in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' 2020 Congressional Fellowship Program on Capitol Hill.

Robert Smith writes he has completed his Doctorate of Social Work from the University of Southern California Suzanne Dworak Peck School of Social Work, where his dissertation focused on the intersection between disability law and the lack of accommodations in correctional facilities for physically disabled inmates. He has been hired by the Center for Community Alternatives in Syracuse, New York as the director of mitigation specialists.

CLASS OF 2017

Thomas Brems reports that in December 2019 he launched CarHop, the only company to deliver alcohol from multiple vendors in compliance with the state, leveraging a novel legal strategy. The company is nearing its first million dollars in revenue in September 2020. CarHop provides exclusive delivery for breweries like Allagash, Maine Beer Company, Shipyard, Rising Tide; restaurants such as The Great Lost Bear and Boda with cocktails to go; and, all of the largest alcohol retailers from Kittery to Bangor.

CLASS OF 2018

Ishtiaque Ahmed writes he is a 2018 J.S.D. graduate and recently published several articles in various U.S. law school journals. On September 2, 2020 he was invited as a speaker in the 5th International Green and Smart Shipping Summit 2020 where only shipping experts and CEOs/MDs and heads of global shipping companies and related organizations were the participants.

CLASS OF 2019

Reginald Parson writes “I am happy to report that I am a member of the newly created Advisory Committee of the Racial Justice Fund that was created by the Maine Justice Foundation.” The public rollout for the announcement took place on September 9, 2020.

Shea Watson joins Portland-based Kelly, Rimmel & Zimmerman, bringing strong advocacy and litigation skills to the firm and clients. KRZ is honored that Shea has chosen to begin her legal career with the firm.

Hannah Wurgaft

joins Lewiston-based Brann & Isaacson. Her practice will focus on labor and employment law, municipal law and litigation.



WURGAFT

CLASS OF 2020

Henry John Bear reports that he will be running for Maine Senate District 2 as a write-in candidate.

Have a personal or professional milestone to share, such as moves, marriages, kids, or a new job? Let your classmates and the Maine Law community hear about your latest news! Send your updates to lawalum@maine.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

Brian Aromando died at age 57 in July, 2020. He was remembered as an adventurous, selfless, and free-spirited guy who lived life to its fullest. He was beloved and active in the Ogunquit area. At the time of his death, he served on the Ogunquit Planning Board and was an active member of southern Maine's 12-step recovery community. He graduated from Maine Law in 2004.

Judge Carl O. Bradford died at age 87 in March, 2020. He served in the U.S. Navy, attended the University of Detroit on the GI Bill, and later Maine Law, where he led the first class to graduate in 1962. He worked in the Maine AG's Office before joining the Paul Powers Law Firm in Freeport. He served his community in many ways, including Little League Coach, trustee of Freeport's B.H. Bartol Library, Commodore of the Harraseeket Yacht Club, and various positions in the Cumberland County Bar Association, the Maine Bar Association, and the Maine Trial Lawyers Association.

Robert G. Driscoll died at age 70 in August, 2020. He was a graduate of Brown University and Maine Law in 1976. He worked in private practice for many years before taking on the position of Town Administrator for Portsmouth, RI from 1990-2011. He was a professor of business law at Salve Regina University and was proud to be a lifelong Portsmouth resident, serving his community and sharing its history.

Michael Robinson Fuller died at age 51 in May, 2020. He attended the University of Maine, and graduated *cum laude* from the University of Southern Maine, with a self-designed major in classics. He graduated in 2003 from Maine Law. He continued to work for the firm of Verrill Dana until shortly before his passing. He was a talented artist, a writer at heart, and a person who radiated kindness, commitment, humor, and goodness.

N. Paul Gauvreau died at age 71 in April, 2020. He graduated from Lewiston High School, the University of Maine, and Maine Law in 1975. He opened a private law practice in Lewiston, and later served in the Maine State Legislature – first in the House and then in the Senate. After leaving the Legislature, Paul was recruited to join the AG's Office as the chief of the Criminal Division. He stayed with the AG's Office in various capacities until retiring in 2019. He had a passion for baseball and was a self-described history nerd with a love of constitutional law.

Juliet Holmes-Smith died at age 57 in August, 2020. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst with a B.A. in Women and Gender Studies. After graduation, she worked in Holyoke, Massachusetts helping teenage mothers obtain their GED. She graduated from Maine Law in 1998 and worked at Pine Tree Legal Services. She went on to become the executive director of the Volunteer Lawyers Project and successfully established it as an independent agency. She was a strong and fearless person who had an unerring sense of justice and advocated for those who were less fortunate.

James Clark Hunt died at age 77 in March, 2020. He attended Hamilton College, earning a B.A. in History, and Harvard University, earning his Ph.D. in Modern European History. He graduated from Maine Law in 1985 and clerked for Justice Caroline Glassman. His law practice included a two-year stint with Dan Lilley, followed by many years at the firm Robertson, Krieger, and McCallum. He was committed to helping others through his profession, which he did through his work as a founding member of Portland, Maine's first Amnesty International chapter, and board service.

Robert “Bob” Edwin Kingman died at age 68 in April, 2019. Bob earned his B.A. at Amherst College, J.D. at Maine Law in 1981, and M.Ed.

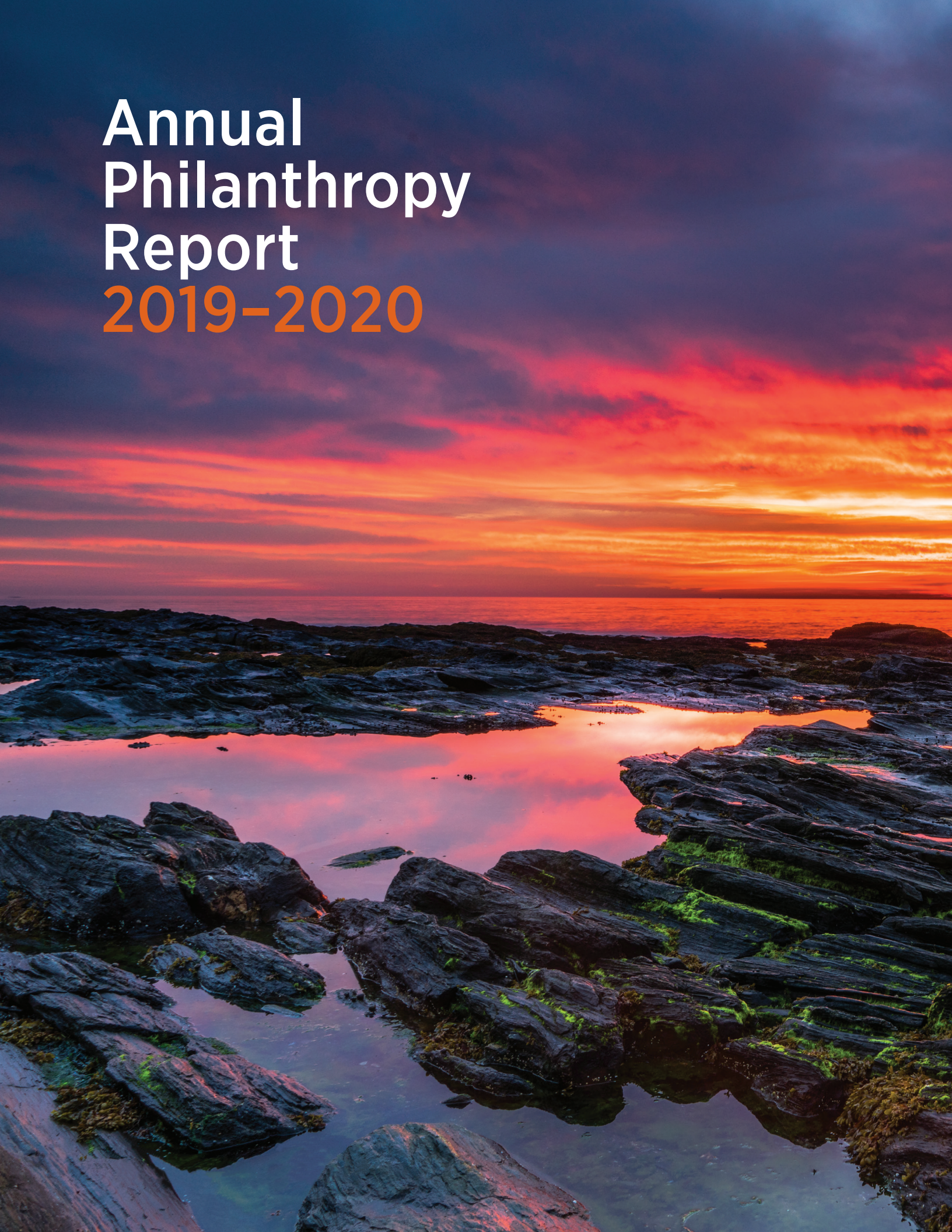
from Antioch University. He found his true vocational calling as a mental health counselor. He made friends everywhere he went because of his gentle nature, intelligence, and zany humor. He loved being outdoors – skiing, sailing, golfing, or windsurfing; was a talented photographer; and enjoyed a wide range of music.

Michael Lang died at age 68 in June, 2020. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Harvard College, and the Neshaminy High School in Langhorne, PA. He was a faculty member of Chapman University School of Law since 2002. Prior to that, he taught at several other law schools including Maine Law, where he served as associate dean and professor of law. He was active in the ABA Section of Taxation, and was the author of numerous books and articles on taxation. He was an avid reader, tennis player, environmental champion, and foodie.

Elmer E. “Bud” Runyon died at age 97 in June, 2020. He only spent one semester in college because he enlisted in the U.S. Army, but he graduated at the top of his class from the then Portland Law School (now the University of Maine School of Law) in 1953. After law school, he practiced law in southern Maine for many years, with offices in Cornish, Portland, Sanford, and Kezar Falls. He was the consummate country lawyer, and he made lots of house calls and had many clients visit his home.

Michael R. Poulin died at age 70 in July, 2020. He earned his B.S. in history/political science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and his J.D. from Maine Law in 1982. He went on to work for Skelton, Taintor & Abbott, predominantly as counsel to CMMC/CMH, and retired after 35 years in 2017. He was a devout Catholic and always very active in his community. He was an avid genealogist, history buff, and sports fan.

Annual Philanthropy Report 2019–2020



A Message from the Maine Law Foundation

On behalf of the University of Maine School of Law Foundation Board, we write to send our collective appreciation to our donors and fellow alumni for the successful annual campaign recorded in this report. Maine Law is a small but prolific institution with over 3,900 living alumni. The school has thrived on the support, loyalty, and continuing enthusiasm from so many of us who received our introduction to the law from classrooms on High Street or Deering Avenue during the past 58 years.

Our small school has now grown in stature to become – pound for pound – one of Maine’s most influential institutions with numerous societal contributions, both public and private, from the school’s many and diverse graduates and from the scholarship and community engagement of its faculty.

Maine Law’s growing stature was recently confirmed when, with the leadership of Chancellor Dannel Malloy (himself a former Boston College Law professor), the University of Maine System’s Board of Trustees directed that the Law School should now report directly to the Chancellor and to the System’s Board of Trustees in parallel to the seven campuses.

It was further confirmed when the Chancellor recruited Maine’s respected Chief Justice Leigh Saufley ’80 to serve as Dean. The school’s reputation instantly blossomed – as did the recruitment of new students. New applicants have ever stronger qualifications, including higher LSAT and GPA records. Renewed focus on student success, led by one of the newest professors, Greg Bordelon, was evidenced in what may have been an all-time high Maine State Bar Exam passage rate for Maine Law graduates. More than 90% of the Class of 2020 passed the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) in Maine this past fall. Congratulations to those graduates!

Students and new faculty are attracted to Portland for many reasons: Maine’s comparative success in contending with the pandemic; our four discrete seasons despite global warming; and a strong reputation for environmental expertise, activism, and integrity within the Law School, the System, and the state at large. Maine Law Professors Charles Norchi and Jeff Thaler are frequent collaborators with the University of Maine’s world renowned Climate Change Institute. Additionally, we are lucky to have the highly regarded Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, led by Professor Deirdre Smith ’94, fulfilling our commitment to advancing justice. We look forward to celebrating the Clinic’s 50th Anniversary this year.

A third confirmation of stature came this fall with the exciting news that the Harold Alfond Foundation, led by Greg Powell ’80, has generously committed a large share of the funds necessary to construct a new building to house the University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center (Maine Center), which will contain the Law, Business, and Muskie Schools in a common setting.

In the months to come, much will be expected of us and our Maine Center partners to match the Alfond challenge. If we are successful, we can hope to build perhaps the most innovative modern building a small law school can enjoy.

We have strong partners for the endeavor including the University of Maine System Trustees, chaired by James Erwin; Chancellor Malloy himself; Joan Ferrini-Mundy, president of UMaine; Jeff Mills, president/CEO of the UMaine Foundation; Glenn Cummings, president of USM; Ainsley Wallace, president/CEO of the USM Foundation; and entrepreneur and real estate developer Bobby Monks who chairs the Maine Center’s fundraising effort. They, and many others, are committed to the Maine Center and will call on us to help.

There is more news to come, but for today it is time to celebrate the Law School’s recent successes, especially the many contributions to the annual campaign even as we faced the pandemic-induced collapse of the world economy. The entire Maine Law Foundation Board, along with all of the faculty and staff at Maine Law, are grateful for the encouraging and continuing support the Law School has received in such challenging times.

CRAIG NELSON

Class of 1969

2019-2020 Board President

PETER MILLS

Class of 1973

2020-2021 Board President

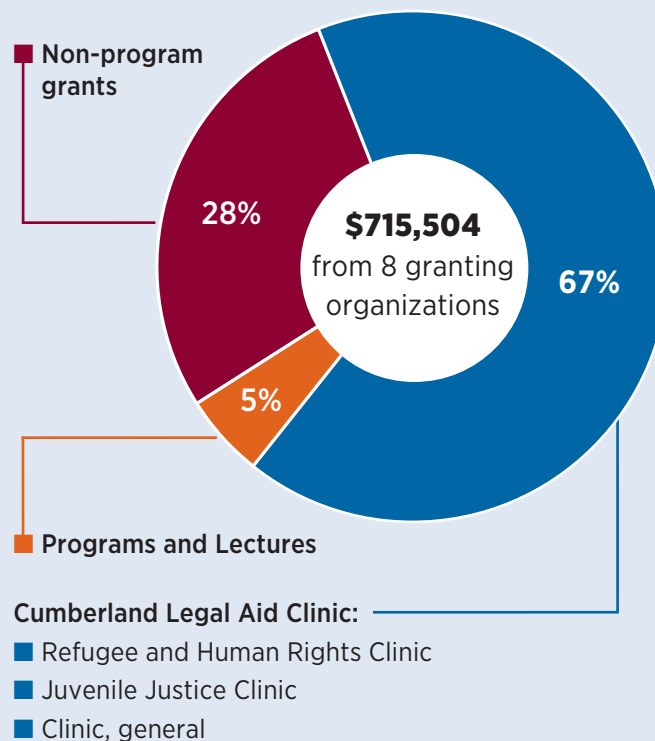
Annual Philanthropy Report 2019–2020

The Annual Philanthropy Report is a testament to the enthusiasm and loyalty of the University of Maine School of Law's alumni and friends. Every gift, no matter the size, has a direct impact on the people and programs that define the Maine Law experience. Thank you for your generous support!

Annual Support Participation

This year **70%** of our participation came from alumni, **21%** from friends of the Law School, **3%** from law firms, **3%** from foundations and nonprofits, **2%** from businesses and matching gifts, and **1%** from estate gifts.

Support From Foundation Grants and Nonprofits



2019-2020 Charitable Contributions

14%

programs, lectures, events

\$57,381

27%

scholarships and fellowships

\$110,628

59%

unrestricted annual fund

\$237,026

\$405,035 from 575 donors

Foundation Endowment Income

Contributions to the University of Maine School of Law endowment are invested to yield a reliable and stable source of expendable income for Maine Law each fiscal year. Approximately 4% of earned interest from the market value of the endowment is distributed for operational and programmatic support.

Year	Endowment Fund Balance	Interest Distribution
2019-2020	\$4,530,511	\$180,811
2018-2019	\$4,450,346	\$192,996
2017-2018	\$4,528,133	\$181,613
2016-2017	\$4,138,088	\$172,945
2015-2016	\$3,862,121	\$147,959
2014-2015	\$3,933,933	\$127,612
2013-2014	\$3,582,990	\$123,455

The information in this report reflects contributions made from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Ralph I. Lancaster, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund



In January 2020, a new endowed scholarship fund was established by Pierce Atwood LLP in honor of their longtime colleague Ralph Lancaster, who practiced law with the firm for nearly 60 years before passing away. He built a reputation as one of the finest and most respected trial lawyers in the country, and firm colleagues knew him as fair, ethical, and kind, with an immense ability, intellect, and an unmatched work ethic. He was recognized as an exceptional mentor who helped shape and propel the careers of so many lawyers both inside and outside of the firm.

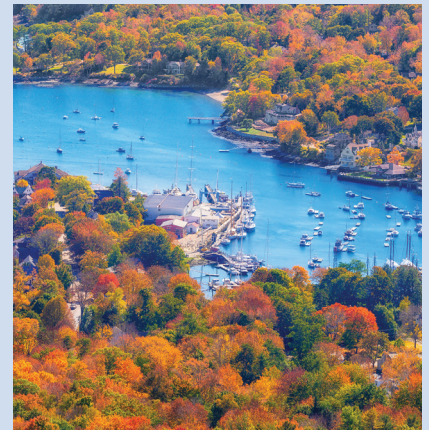
By establishing the Ralph I. Lancaster, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, Pierce Atwood hopes to continue to support the tradition of excellence in the practice of law by identifying highly qualified incoming first-year law students with a demonstrated financial need, and providing those students with financial support during each of their three years at Maine Law.

Pierce Atwood managing partner David E. Barry stated, “Ralph Lancaster was an extraordinary lawyer and leader. With this scholarship, we look to honor Ralph’s legacy and commitment to Maine and excellence in the legal profession by helping to lower the barrier to the study of law for exceptional Maine Law students.”

Grant Support

Maine Law was awarded a \$90,000 grant from the **Betterment Fund** to continue the Rural Lawyer Project during 2020–2022. This grant enables Maine Law to build upon a successful pilot program that was designed to solve a growing crisis in Maine’s rural communities: access to local legal services.

In the summer of 2020 there were 5 Rural Law Fellowship placements. Fellows were in Presque Isle, Camden, Fort Kent, Farmington, and Belfast. The Fellows worked under the guidance of rural practitioners to learn the breadth and potential of serving Maine’s rural communities through exposure to all facets of legal practice.



John T. Gorman Foundation continued its support of the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic’s juvenile justice reform work with a \$105,000 grant. The grant supports the Juvenile Justice Clinic and the Maine Center for Juvenile Policy and Law’s

efforts to implement a continuum of community-based alternatives to incarceration, to increase fairness in the juvenile justice system, and to remove barriers to success for those who have prior system involvement.

Why We Give

“ Maine Law’s offerings, as well as opportunities for exchange studies, were ideal for someone like me who already had a Master’s degree, had worked for a couple years in environmental consulting, and was interested in expanding my knowledge. Yet my original intent was never to be a litigator. It was the semester I spent on exchange at Dalhousie in my 3rd year that changed my trajectory in a big way. Without that educational opportunity at Maine Law, I never would have taken an exchange semester where I took a specialized course in Admiralty Collision Law that culminated with a multi-day mock Admiralty hearing. I like to think that the mock hearing was the beginning of my career as a litigator. And now, 33 years after my admission to the Maine Bar, I still use tips and strategies I learned at Maine Law (truly listen to the answers to your depo or trial questions; don’t just follow a script; investigate your facts and research the law; when in doubt, reach out to colleagues for advice; and on and on). Working in a busy in-house insurance defense office, even though now working remotely and who knows when I’ll see a civil jury trial again in Colorado, the lessons learned at Maine Law resonate and keep me focused. So I give so that others may be able to experience what I have enjoyed and reaped over the years with quite a varied practice arc from the Maine AG’s office with Dean Leigh Saufley as my first boss, to City Hall in Bangor, real estate and land use law in Connecticut, bankruptcy adversary work initially in Colorado, followed by 16 years and counting of insurance defense litigation with both panel counsel and the last 12 years in-house. All of this had its genesis with the great education I received at Maine Law, and I want others to be able to experience this as well. ”

Bruce Shibles '87, Colorado

“ I’m grateful for the professional, volunteer, and personal opportunities I’ve received due to my degree from Maine Law. Maine Law’s quality of education and academic rigor are unquestionable. There is meaningful yet intangible value, however, to one’s professional and personal development being within a community of such supportive classmates, professors, and administrators. The Maine Law community provides a sense of collective confidence, support, and optimism that stays with you long after graduation. To me, that experience provided the early building blocks for becoming a stronger professional and member of the community. ”

Alistair Raymond '06, Maine

“ Honestly, it has never occurred to me not to give to the University of Maine School of Law. I give to Maine Law for at least three reasons: (1) the Maine Law faculty; (2) the Maine Law alumni; and (3) the current Maine Law students. First, I owe my legal education and my law degree to the Maine Law full-time and adjunct faculty who shared their knowledge with me. Second, in the 32 years since I graduated, Maine Law alumni, too numerous to name, have given their time and expertise to make me a better lawyer. Those friendships have been invaluable. Finally, I give because I have enormous confidence in the current students who, in future years, will bring much to the Maine Bar and to the communities in which they reside. If the Woodcock Scholarship helps future lawyers to graduate from the Law School and undertake the vocation of practicing law, it has fulfilled all of my expectations for it. ”

Elizabeth Woodcock '88, New Hampshire

2019–2020 Maine Law Donors

Dean's Circle

\$10,000 and above

Anonymous Class of '77
Laurie L. Balmuth '80
Bernstein Shur
Robert A. Laskoff '70
Tom and Vicki Mielke
Pierce Atwood LLP
Gregory Powell '80
Leigh and Bill Saufley '80
Kenneth S. Spier and
Joan Leitzer, M.D.
Ira Waldman '76

Leadership Circle

\$5,000–\$9,999

Eaton Peabody
James R. Erwin
Estate of Dorothy M. Wentworth
Maine Center Ventures
John R. McKernan, Jr. '74 and
Olympia J. Snowe
Craig H. Nelson '69
Sam L. Cohen Foundation in honor
of Prof. Anna Welch and with
thanks to Kenneth S. Spier
John K. Veroneau '89
Verrill

Justice Society

\$1,000–\$4,999

Anonymous
Ellie Baker '78 and Tom Saturely
Ronald S. Battocchi '74 and
Mary T. Bell '74
Hon. Daniel I. Billings '03 and
Hon. Brianne M. Martin '07
Andrew Black '94 and
Monica Bigley '91
Robert J. Bocko '85
James Bowie '77 and
Sarah Downs '77
Jonathan W. Brogan '85 and
Elizabeth M. Brogan '85
Dr. and Mrs. Nathaniel and
Wilma Brown
Stearns J. Bryant, Jr. '68
Martha Casey '82
Jimmy Christianson '10
Anne H. Cressey '88
Michael R. Currie '80
Bob Eddy '69 and Barbara P. Allen
Ronald '77 and Eileen '78 Epstein
Robert S. Frank
Barbara Gauditz '87
John Gause '95
Benjamin R. Gideon

Virginia Gignoux
Mark Haley
J. Trevor Hughes '95 and
Gabriella Hughes
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Cathy Lee and Robert Moyer
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Maine State Bar Association
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87
Class Size

156
Median LSAT

3.51
Median GPA

152/158
25th/75th percentiles
LSAT

3.26/3.7
25th/75th percentiles
GPA

27
Average age

21-54
Age range

12
States represented

16
Undergraduate
institutions
represented

51%
Women

3
Active duty or military
veterans

53%
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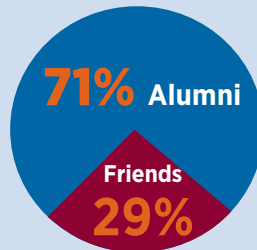
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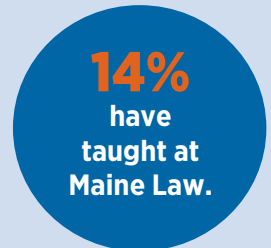
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